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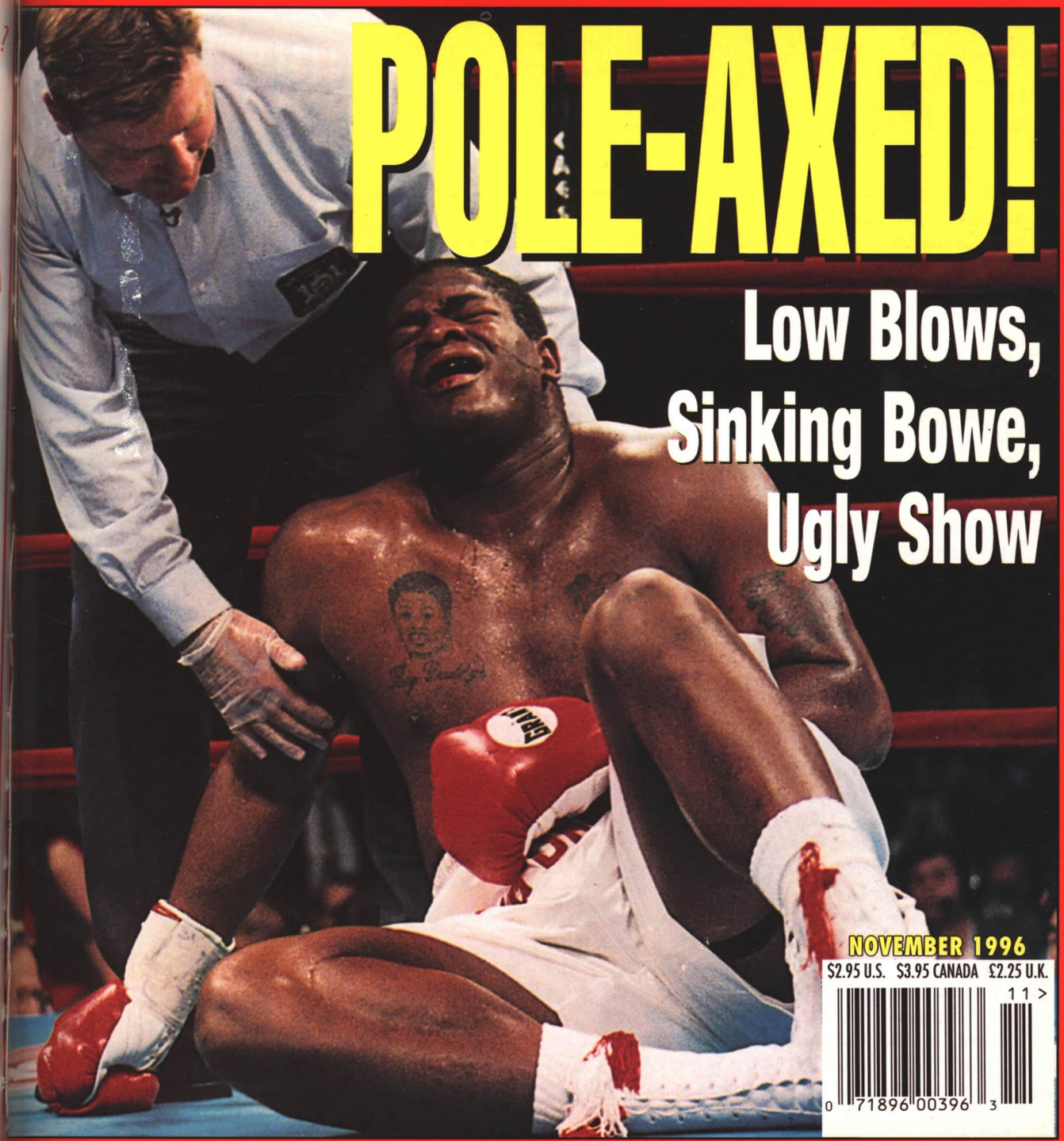

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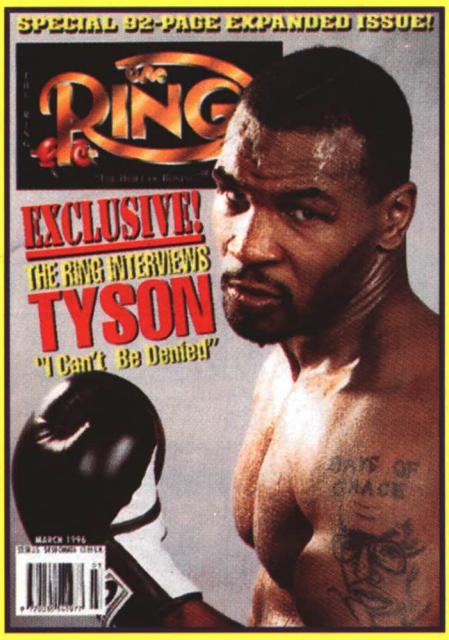

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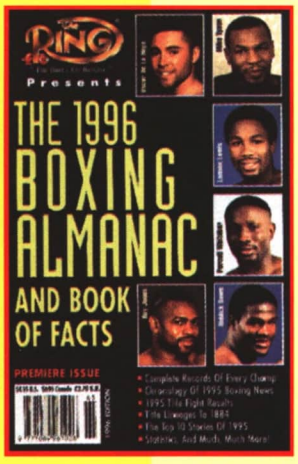

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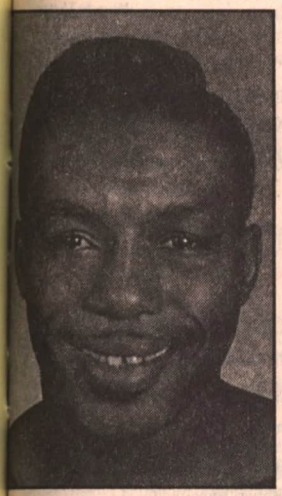

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Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

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Photo by Teddy Blackburn

RINGSIDE

The best of spin doctors receive their degrees at BSU. At the start of his press conference the morning after Riddick Bowe's disqualification victory over Andrew Golota and subsequent mini-riot, Rock Newman, who graduated Magna Cum Laude, pulled out a small book, *The Daily Word*, and read a passage about the grace of God.

I promise you this: There'll never be a book written about the grace of Rock.

Said Newman, who manages Bowe and promoted the bout (ain't that illegal?), "I wholeheartedly and very sincerely apologize and am very sorry for the pain, grief, anguish, and embarrassment it has caused all of us."

I felt like rising from my chair and shouting, "Sorry, Rock, but don't bother selling because I'm not buying." After the handful of ugly incidents that have defined Newman, I rate his credibility somewhere between that of O.J. Simpson and Don King.

I was at Madison Square Garden on July 11, and the bloody melee that followed the disqualification of Golota left me with a queasy feeling in the pit of my stomach, as if I had joined Bowe in fielding some of the Polish heavyweight's low blows. I don't suggest that Newman was the only one responsible for what happened. Security was insufficient, and in that regard, the Garden can learn from the big-fight venues of Las Vegas. Despite boxing's well-earned reputation, the Garden employs the same amount of security for an Ice Capades performance as a professional fight card. Amazing.

But back to Rock, who rolled into the ring after referee Wayne Kelly properly DQ'd Golota. Whether he meant to or not, Newman led a cavalry charge that included Jason Harris, the cowardly punk who repeatedly struck Golota over the head with a cellular phone. Harris, along with some of the others who precipitated the mini-riot by rushing the ring, was either credentialed or ticketed by Newman. Still, Newman wouldn't accept the blame. "I do not take responsibility for grown people's actions," he said.

Newman has never accepted responsibility for his *own* actions either. When he applied a chokehold, then flipped Elijah Tillery out of the ring, it was because the heavyweight had tried to kick Bowe in the privates. When he attacked a photographer after Bowe's first win over Evander Holyfield, it was because the lensman had insulted Rock's wife. When his crew brutally attacked Fan Man, it was because the paraglider could have killed both fighters. It's never Rock's fault, you see.

And what does it say about Newman that instead of immediately tending to his fighter, he rushed toward Golota's corner, shouting and threateningly waving his fingers? When Newman stormed into the ring, Bowe was flat on his back and presumably in agony. Newman climbed right over him.

At the aforementioned press conference, Newman said "there is no pattern" to the incidents. Wrong, Rock. There's enough of a pattern to identify and indict you for what you are.

I've always been among those who have argued that as a manager, Newman has been good for his fighter. But on July 11, he again showed he's not good for boxing. For that reason, he deserves a lengthy suspension.

It's not good enough just to read the book, Rock, if you have no intention of living by it.

Steve Farhood
Editor-in-Chief

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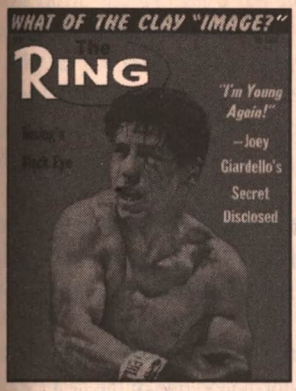
The RING '60s & '70s ISSUES

When Cassius Clay made his pro debut in 1960, THE RING was there. When "The Greatest" fought Joe Frazier for the heavyweight title in 1971, THE RING was there. Before Carlos Monzon, Jose Napoles, and Roberto Duran made names for themselves, the readers of THE RING were already talking about them. THE RING covered all the boxing events of the 1960s and 1970s as no other magazine could–and now a limited supply of back issues from those two decades are available for $10 each (including postage and handling).



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June 1964: Joey Giardello's Secret Disclosed: "I'm Young Again!" Plus: Cassius Clay, Willie Pastrano, Floyd Patterson, Carlos Ortiz, heavyweight hopefuls.

Aug. 1964: Who Is Floyd Robertson? Plus: Max Schmeling, Griffith-Rodriguez, Dick Tiger, Olympic preview, Joey Giardello, Sonny Liston.

Sept. 1964: The Perils Of Patterson! Plus: Cleveland Williams, Laszlo Papp, Jose Stable, Carlos Ortiz.

July 1965: Jose Torres, Puerto Rico's New Hero. Plus: Clay-Liston II prefight, Gene Tunney, Joey Giardello, Bonavena-Folley, George Chuvalo.

Nov. 1965: Giardello Title Tenure Over? Plus: History of middleweights, heavyweight situation, Johnny Persol, Luis Rodriguez, Mathis & Frazier's pro debuts.

May 1966: Who Will Tame Dick Tiger? Clay-Terrell preview, James Norris, Emile Griffith, Vicente Saldivar.

Jan. 1967: Is Time Running Out On Terrell? Plus: Torres-Tiger preview, long count mystery solved, Carlos Ortiz, Cassius Clay, Zora Folley, Johnny Persol.

April 1967: Death Stalks The Tiger. Plus: Cassius Clay, Emile Griffith, Mike Jacobs, Barney Ross, Joe Clark.

Dec. 1967: Jack Dempsey Picks Next Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Griffith-Benvenuti II, Joe Frazier, Gans-McGovern controversy, Buster Mathis.

Jan. 1968: Corbett-Dempsey Computer Fight. Plus: Joe Frazier, Jerry Quarry, Jimmy Ellis, Thad Spencer, Vicente Saldivar retires.

June 1968: Boone Kirkman: Heavyweight Threat. Plus: Ken Buchanan, Sonny Liston, Ernie Terrell, southpaws, Nino Benvenuti & Frank Sinatra.

Nov. 1968: Are Today's Fighters Overpaid? Plus: Joey Archer, Emile Griffith, Sugar Ray Robinson, Fritzie Zivic.

Dec. 1968: Is World Boxing Association Crumbling? Plus: Ellis-Patterson, George Chuvalo, Kid Gavilan, Bob Foster.

May 1969: Frazier-Ellis—A Knockout For 1969! Plus: Mando Ramos, Bob Foster, cornermen, Marty Servo.

Feb. 1972: Will Tax Bite KO Foreign Invasion? Plus: Clay-Mathis, Quarry-Bodell, Mando Ramos, Ruben Olivares, Foreman-Pires, Foster-Hicks.

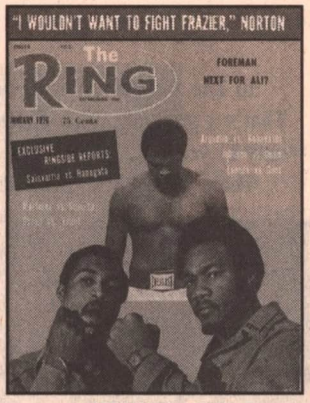
July 1973: Has Time Come For Ali To Quit? Plus: Ken Norton, George Foreman, Bruno Arcari, Danny Lopez, Jimmy Richards, Henry Cooper, Antonio Cervantes, Bobby Chacon.

Sept. 1973: Ali's Revenge? Muhammad Ali vs. Ken Norton—The Battle Of Broken Jaw. Plus: Frazier-Bugner, Shavers-Ellis, Chacon-Olivares, Terrell-Wepner, Monzon-Griffith.

Dec. 1974: Where Do We Go From Zaire? Plus: Bob Foster, Napoles-Lewis, Angel Mayoral, new faces, Sam Taub, Lopez-Toyoshima.

Dec. 1975: Inside Story! Ali-Frazier Super Fite III. Plus: Kotey-Olivares, Escalera-Hernandez, Lyle-Shavers, Briscoe-Gregory, Ray Robinson, Jack Schmeling.

Jan. 1976: Foreman Next For Ali? Plus: Ken Norton, Arguello-Kobayashi, Johnson-Dunn, Duran-Viruet, Jose Napoles, Lou Nova.



JANUARY 1976

Feb. 1976: Today's Champs—Rated Pound For Pound. Plus: Madison Square Garden, Briscoe-Hart, Ray Lampkin, Dempsey-Gibbons, Antonio Cervantes, Georges Carpentier.

Sept. 1977: Norton-Young: Winner To Fight Ali! Plus: Sugar Ray Leonard, Michael and Leon Spinks, John Tate, Palomino-Green, Galindez-Kates II, Wilfredo Gomez, Irish-American fighters.

Nov. 1977: Monzon Retires. Plus: Next middleweight king?, Arguello-Fernandez, Benitez-Guerrero, Mattioli-Dagge, Palacios-Muniz.

Nov. 1978: Fifteen Top Heavyweights: Which Have A Chance At Crown? Plus: Bob Arum, Mickey Walker, Hagler-Briscoe, Fernandez-Arguello, Vorasingh-Estaba.

July 1979: Foreman Exclusive: Preach Or Punch? Plus: Mike Weaver, Jack Sharkey, Galindez-Rossman II, Franklin-Johnson II, Jorge Lujan, Watt-Pitalua, Chacon-Limon II, Conteh-Burnett, Leonard-Viruet, federal commission?

Nov. 1979: Leonard: Sweet Enough To Be Called "Sugar Ray"? Plus: Wilfred Benitez, Willie Pep, 10 worst heavyweights, Monzon comeback?, Cuevas-Shields, Leonard-Ranzany, Muhammad-Conteh, Hilmer Kenty.

Dec. 1979: What's Next For Larry Holmes? Plus: Holmes-Shavers II, Pipino Cuevas, Thomas Hearns, Arum & King, Leonard-Price, Gomez-Mendoza.

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COME OUT WRITING

We welcome your letters, which may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

KEEPING UP WITH JONES

Talk about an overrated fighter! How could it possibly take as long as it did for Roy Jones to stop somebody named Eric Lucas, who didn't even throw any punches? Off the top of my head, I can think of four fighters who would take care of Jones: Frankie Liles, Bernard Hopkins, Lonnie Bradley, and Dana Rosenblatt.

Hey, Roy: Until you pick yourself up off the canvas and destroy the opponent who put you there, you don't deserve to be called a great fighter, or even pound-for-pound one of the best.

MICHAEL W. SABOL
Mt. Carbon, PA

For all his great talent, Jones is in danger of becoming the Fran Drescher of boxing, with his constant whining about a lack of suitable opposition. If Jones wants a challenge, he should fight Mike Tyson. The idea isn't as farfetched as it sounds. As long as Jones doesn't make the mistake of coming in at much over 168 pounds, his speed and power would make for a competitive fight.

ART ROSSI
Shrewsbury, MA

In *The Ring Boxing Almanac,* Roy Jones is ranked as the best ever at super middleweight. That's a great accomplishment, but hardly one that makes a legend. Remember, the division is only 11 years old.

There are no further challenges for Jones at 168 pounds. It's time for him to move up to light heavyweight. Jones wants challenges? I challenge him to fight Virgil Hill in North Dakota or Henry Maske in Germany. Only when Jones wins and then unifies the light heavyweight title will he be considered an all-time great.

DAN JACKSON
Brookings, OR

Photo by Tom Casino

Roy Jones didn't make any new fans by picking apart overmatched Canadian challenger Eric Lucas. Boxing's top pound-for-pound fighter is badly in need of a serious test.

After all the waiting and debating, Roy Jones has finally taken his place as number one in THE RING'S pound-for-pound ratings. He's been unfairly criticized for lack of suitable competition when, in fact, there is none.

Jones is a two-, and soon to be three-division champion. His skills are unequaled at any weight. (Sorry, Pernell.) Put him in any division and he's the man.

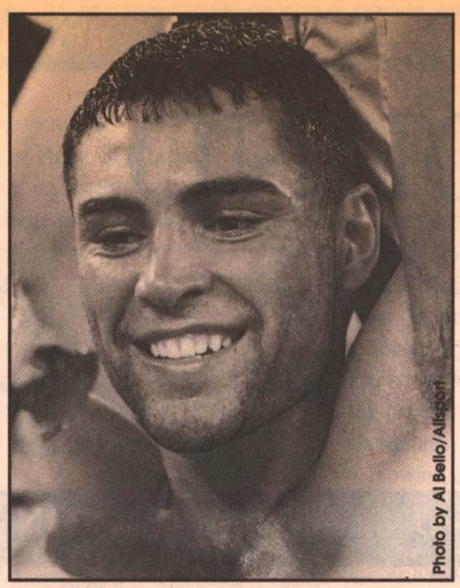
JIM McGRADY
Mastic Beach, NY

DE LA HOYA-CHAVEZ

You owe me $40. That's right, you, Julio Cesar Chavez, former champion at three weights and the recent recipient of a $9-million payday, owe me, Jeff B. Hawkins, a whopping 40 clams. That's $25 for my closed-circuit ticket to your fight with Oscar De La Hoya, and $15 for a few luke-warm beers, gratuities included.

Why do you owe me this money? Quite simply, you deceived me—and a couple million other people, too. But I don't care about them right now. I want my money!

Had I known you were damaged goods coming into the fight, having suffered a cut in training, I wouldn't have plopped down 25 smackers to watch you bleed like a stuck pig a lousy 60 seconds into the fight. Sure you threw a few punches, but I defy anyone to tell me you were in there for anything but the dinero.



Many of the fans who watched De La Hoya's biggest victory on closed-circuit long for a return to the comforts of pay-per-view. Closed-circuit sales were nonetheless brisk.

A fighter has a professional obligation to enter the ring in the best possible physical and mental shape. Anything less is a quit job in my eyes. Which is what I saw on June 7.

JEFF B. HAWKINS
Charlestown, MA

In one word, my closed-circuit experience at the De La Hoya-Chavez fight was deplorable. The auditorium I attended was ill-prepared for the event. There was one restroom for 3,000 men, and consequently, people started urinating on the floor. There were drunks, fistfights, and mad-dog stares. It was very uncomfortable.

Moreover, the screen was so dark, many people didn't know Chavez was cut in the first round. The audio had an echo, and the commentators were drowned out by the crowd, so there might as well have been no sound at all.

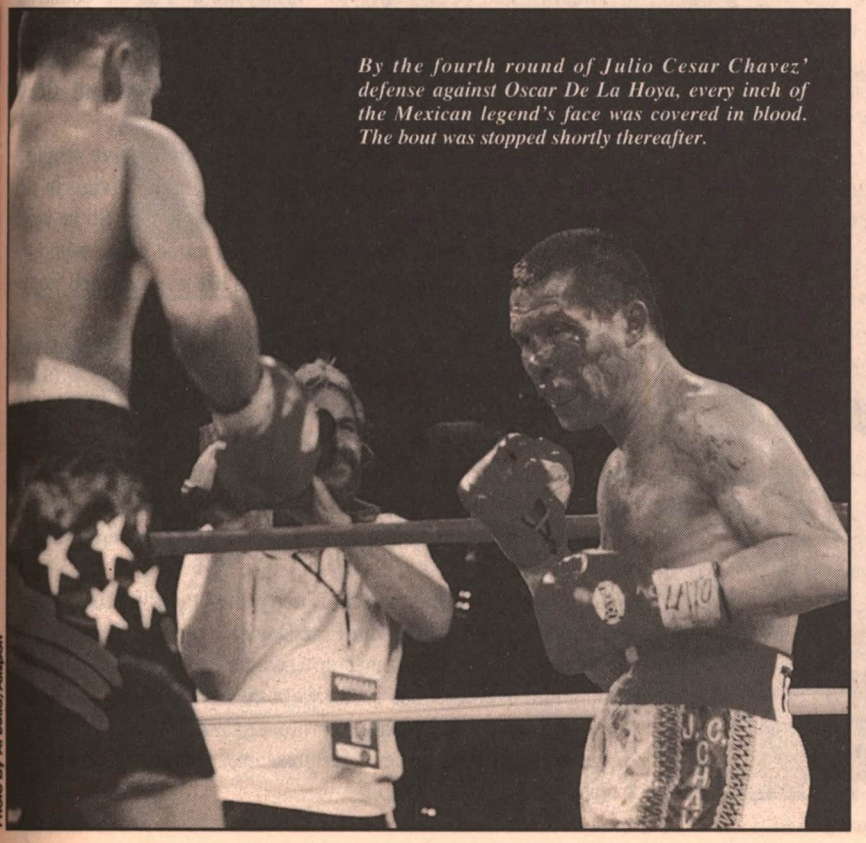
Even if it's free, I'll never go to another closed-circuit fight. I'd rather wait a week for the recorded version.

GEORGE MEDINA
Patterson, CA

My closed-circuit site for De La Hoya-Chavez was the local fairgrounds. Everything was comfortable until we started losing the audio and people began shouting, "Free beer!" To make a long story short, the beer, free or not, had kicked in by the start of the main event, and the crowd was ready for Chavez to destroy De La Hoya. When the fight was stopped, the beer began flying and small skirmishes began breaking out. I had to quickly rush my father out the door before the new champion was announced.

I hope closed-circuit's comeback turns out to be as brief as De La Hoya-Chavez. I much prefer watching fights in the comfort of my own home, where the beer really is free.

JERRY GALARTE
Brawley, CA



By the fourth round of Julio Cesar Chavez' defense against Oscar De La Hoya, every inch of the Mexican legend's face was covered in blood. The bout was stopped shortly thereafter.

Imagine how excited I was upon hearing De La Hoya-Chavez was going to come off. And imagine how disappointed I was to find out that I couldn't buy a seat because the fight wasn't shown anywhere in my state.

And the people who govern and promote this beautiful sport wonder why people would rather watch women's pro beach volleyball and the Extreme Games.

NORM SENNA JR.
Milton, VT

I remain a loyal fan of Chavez. However, I was disappointed in the manner in which he fought De La Hoya. A good trainer such as Emanuel Steward would have had Chavez bobbing and weaving and moving forward. Instead, he chose to fight from a distance. He seemed much too relaxed, as if it was going to be an easy fight. I'd like to see a return match, but I feel Chavez should donate his entire purse from the first fight to Mexican charities.

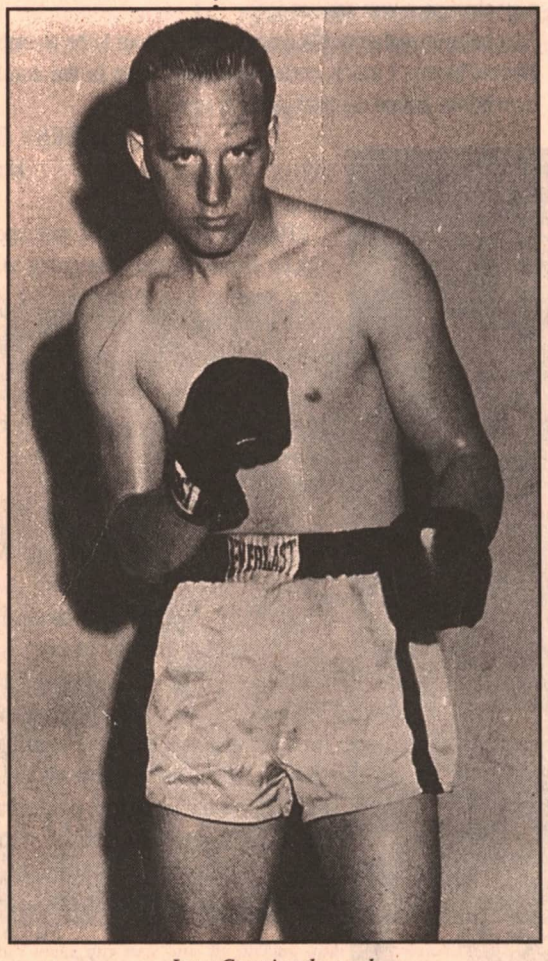
FRED GARCIA
Chimayo, Mexico ■

ROUND ONE

A CHAMPION IN LIFE

Of the 10,000 Americans chosen to run with the Olympic Torch as it made its way around the United States to the Summer Games in Atlanta, three were boxers of note. Sugar Ray Leonard and Evander Holyfield were Olympic medalists and professional world champions. Don Lutz never achieved his dream of becoming middleweight champion, but what he has done in life made him fitting company for the other two.

Thirty years ago, Lutz, a native of Milwaukee, was a member of the legendary Angelo Dundee stable fighting out of the Fifth Street Gym in Miami. He trained alongside the likes of Muhammad Ali, Willie Pastrano, and Luis Rodriguez. After turning pro in 1964, Lutz compiled a record of 18-2-2, and was gaining notice when the U.S. government decided it had other fighting plans for him and sent him to Vietnam.



Lutz: Carrying the torch

America had been at war for two years, and as the country's military effort dramatically escalated, many young men of age for military service fled to Canada to avoid conscription. Drafted later, Ali declared himself a conscientious objector and didn't fight again for three years.

Lutz attended college while he boxed, and could have sought a student deferment. But he believed the privilege of living in the land of the free was worth a stint in the armed forces. So he went to Vietnam as a medic, and 18 months later came home with two Purple Hearts and the Bronze Star. But his life was changed forever.

Lutz tried to resume his ring career, but watching hundreds of young soldiers die had taken away his killer instinct. He suffered from constant headaches and short-term memory loss that Veterans Administration doctors blamed on boxing—until Lutz proved the damage had occurred while he had been in combat overseas. He was subsequently declared war-disabled. Today he works for Milwaukee County and teaches boxing to youngsters at a local gym.

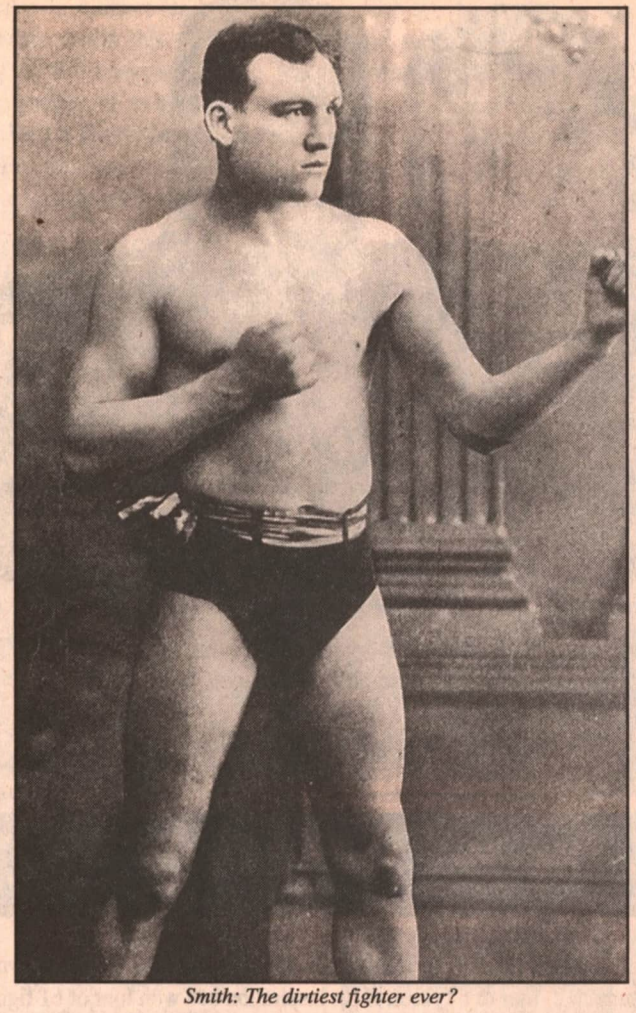
In addition to being chosen to carry the Olympic Torch, Lutz was honored in May on "Don Lutz Day" in a special ceremony at the Milwaukee County Courthouse, where he credited boxing for helping him overcome the obstacles in his life.

"I learned from boxing how to analyze things—that and Hemingway's thing: grace under pressure," he said. "It saved me. It made me keep getting up."

–Pete Ehrmann

THE BOXING BOOKSHELF

Every time someone who's been there tells me I haven't lived until I visit the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, New York, I tell them I'd just as soon go to Bill Schutte's house. And not just because Whitewater, Wisconsin, is a lot closer to where I live. Boxing historians know Schutte as one of the best of the genre, a maven whose reputation as the top expert on boxers who fought up to 1920 brings a steady parade of authors, researchers, and fans to his home. Visitors are amazed by Schutte's incredible collection of artifacts and lore on about 4,000 boxers whose lives and deeds deserve to live on in ring history more than some of today's forgettable champions.



Smith: The dirtiest fighter ever?

Toward that end, Schutte has already authored three record books on ancient fighters, as well as a biography of old-time lightweight Leach Cross (all no longer available). Now he has written and published *Mysterious Billy Smith: The Dirtiest Fighter Of All-Time*, a 63-page soft-cover biography of the late-19th century welterweight champion who was never loathe to use his elbows, feet, and even teeth in the ring, which was where only some of his best fights happened.

Culled from Schutte's voluminous files of old newspaper and magazine clippings, it's a brisk, straightforward account of Smith's life. Moreover, it's full of rare photos of Smith and his opponents.

The prose will not win any literary awards, but this book wasn't written to be analyzed alongside Steven King's latest at the weekly library discussion circle. Schutte's works are aimed strictly at serious fans of boxing history, who will find this unadorned look at one of the sport's fiercest and foulest practitioners worth having. It costs $19, and is available from the author at 1695 Mound View Place, Whitewater, WI 53190.

–Pete Ehrmann

ADIOS, FIDEL

Three weeks before the Olympic Games in Atlanta, Cuban boxers Joel Casamayor, a featherweight, and Ramon Garbey, a light heavyweight, fled the team's training camp in Mexico and sought asylum near San Diego. Casamayor, 24, was a gold medalist at the 1988 Games in Barcelona, and Garbey, 25, is a former world champion. As we went to press, they were awaiting the disposition of their cases.

"This was a purely political decision," said Al Rogers, a spokesman for the law firm representing Casamayor and Garbey. "They very easily could have won the gold and then defected, but they chose not to fight [Fidel] Castro's war."

Frank Ronzio, an immigration specialist and fight manager from Los Angeles, told *The New York Times* that the Cubans had fled training camp because of unrelenting political pressure. "It was unbearable," Ronzio said. "They had been singled out for persecution, and they felt they had to do it now."

Since the beginning of the '90s, more than 70 Cuban athletes have defected, mainly to the USA and Puerto Rico.

THE 10 SAME-DAY CHALLENGES ROY JONES HAS INSPIRED

10. Hector Camacho: Pick apart the wardrobe of RuPaul, then pick apart the face of Pernell Whitaker.
9. Oscar De La Hoya: Go 18 with Jan Stephenson, then go 12 with Jan Bergman.
8. Virgil Hill: Run 26 miles in a marathon, then run 26 more vs. Roy Jones.
7. Larry Holmes: Announce his re-re-re-re-retirement, then announce his comeback fight vs. George Foreman.
6. Marco Antonio Barrera: Take pre-law classes, then take Naseem Hamed to school.
5. Frans Botha: Launch a "Just Say No To Steroids" campaign, then just say no to the referee when Michael Moorer begins to unleash his jab.

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Duran still wants to blow out Camacho

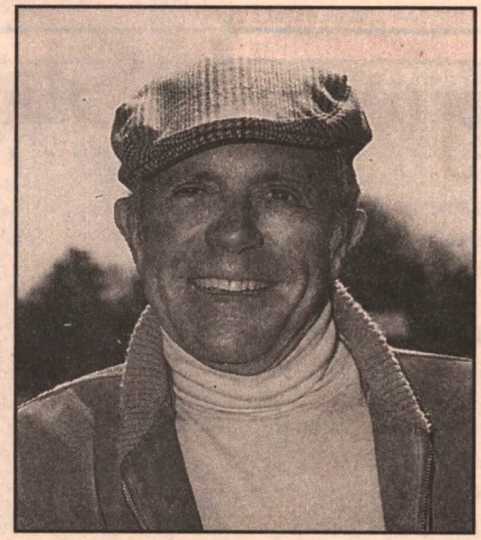
4. Butterbean: Destroy a buffet line in 14 minutes, then destroy a part-time truckdriver in 14 seconds.
3. Roberto Duran: Blow out the candles at his 50th birthday party, then blow out Hector Camacho.
2. Luis Santana: Study drama, then act as if he's been shot after getting hit by a rabbit punch.
1. James Toney: Add 50 pounds after the weigh-in, then add the light heavyweight title to his collection.

IT'S DEMPSEY—BY A NOSE

Though it can be argued that horses are treated better than fighters, boxing and thoroughbred racing have a lot in common. For instance, you can't tell the difference between a gymrat and a railbird.

Cot Campbell, who heads Dogwood Stable, appreciates both sports. As a young man, Campbell remembers parking Sugar Ray Robinson's car at a Miami nightclub. Later, while working as a reporter, he covered one of Robinson's fights.

Campbell's success, however, has come at the track. In 1990, his star colt, Summer Squall, won the Preakness Stakes. Still, he hasn't forgotten the Sweet Science. Two of his horses were named Dempsey and Sharkey (Jack, not Sailor Tom). While the former defeated the latter in the ring, Sharkey proved the better racehorse, earning purses of $172,776 to Dempsey's $15,217. In fact, Dempsey won just four of 61 races. If his inspiration had won four of 61 fights, the two-legged Dempsey would never have made it out of Manassa.



Campbell: Sending Dempsey down the stretch

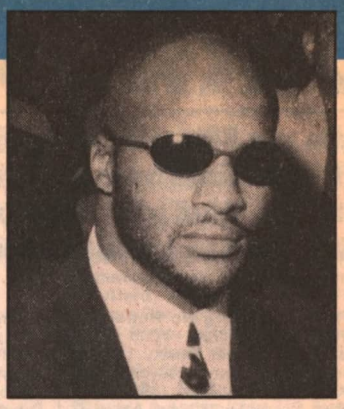
Dogwood Stable is located in Aiken, South Carolina, where Campbell sponsors Cerenzio Williams, a teenage light flyweight who has competed in the National Golden Gloves. Campbell regularly brings the fighters of the Aiken Boxing Club to the track, where they watch the horses work out. "The kids enjoy seeing the thoroughbreds since most of them have never seen a horse in person before," he said.

Of course, most of the horses have never seen fighters either.

–Steve Farhood

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

Tommy Collins, a popular featherweight and lightweight contender in the '50s, died in Boston at age 67. He compiled a record of 60-12 (43), and was stopped by defending lightweight champion **Jimmy Carter** in 1953. In that fight, Collins suffered an incredible 10 knockdowns in two rounds. He also fought, among others, **Sandy Saddler**, **Willie Pep**, and **Lauro Salas** ... **Gilbert Odd**, a legendary British boxing writer who was enshrined in the Hall of Fame earlier this year, died in England at age 93 ... Less than two weeks after regaining the IBF heavyweight title, **Michael Moorer** was charged with creating a disturbance at a social club in his hometown of Monessen, Pennsylvania .. Six days after his loss to **Oscar De La Hoya**, **Julio Cesar Chavez** was accused by his wife of physical abuse ... **Ernesto Fuentes**, known as "Mr. Boxing" in San Diego, died at age 73. Fuentes worked as a promoter, matchmaker, manager, and trainer for more than 50 years.



Moorer: More trouble

THE PUNCHLINES

"Out of the red corner, wearing blue trunks with white lettering, weighing in at a trim 121 pounds, all the way from Piedras Negras, Mexico, with a record of 44 wins, only 37 losses, and three draws ..."

–Ring announcer Carlos Silva introducing trialhorse Javier "Suzuki" Diaz at a bout in Houston, Texas

"Ray always wants to come back and say he's Mr. Miracle Man. He's a sissy. He's an arrogant, selfish, envious [bleep]. That's what he is. If he's going to retire, retire. Get off the wagon. I used to like him at one point, and [now] I don't like him at all. If we were ever face to face together, I might take a couple of swings at him to let him know it's the real deal and it's going to be more than just business."

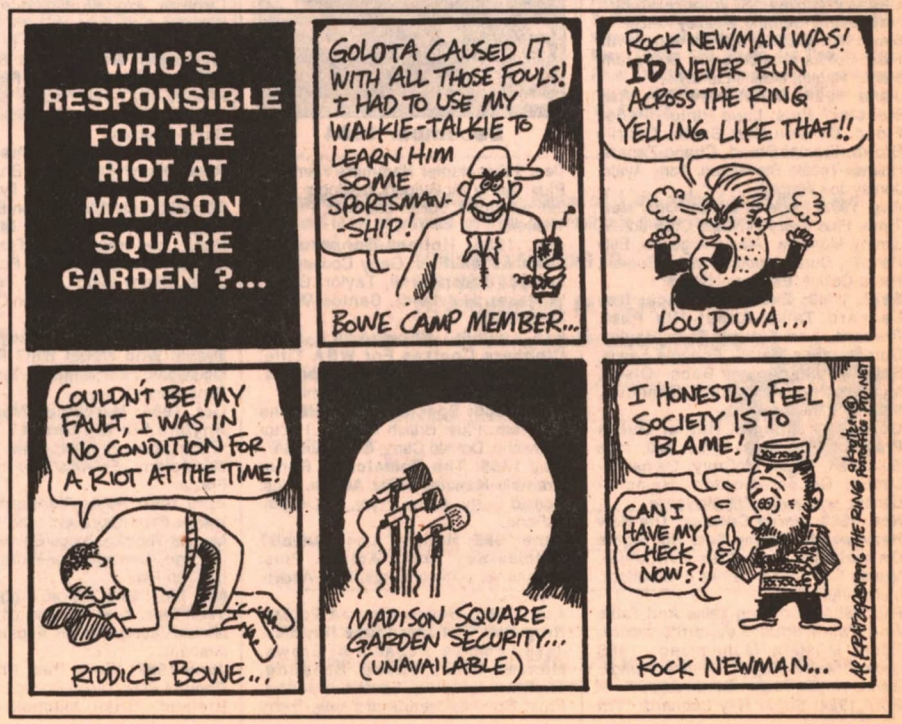
–Hector Camacho on Sugar Ray Leonard

"I'd like to think it's a string of unfortunate circumstances. I'm beginning to wonder about all this, because there are so many people shooting at me. I think the gods are sending bugs down, you know what I mean? I don't know if it's germ warfare or what."

–Don King on the postponement of the Tyson-Seldon fight

Collins (right) lost to Carter in '53 title shot

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



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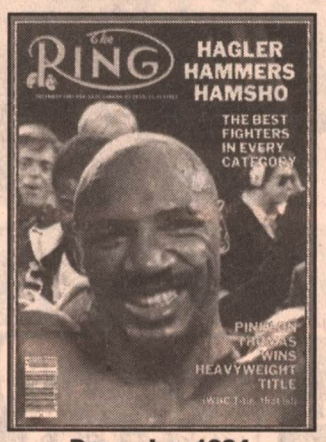

December 1984

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Sept. 1994 (92-Page Special): How Michael Moorer Defeated Evander Holyfield, By Teddy Atlas! Plus: Chavez-Randall II, Lennox Lewis, Mando Ramos, all-time greatest cards, What If ... Duran vs. Arguello, All-Time Top 10: Scotland.

Oct. 1994: Rating The Champs: Whitaker & Toney Lead The Field ... But Roy Jones Is Closing Fast. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Meldrick Taylor, Rafael Ruelas, Curtis Cokes.

Nov. 1994: With Lewis Fighting Bowe ... Is Michael Moorer's Career Off-Target? Plus: Wayne McCullough, Hall of Fame, Alejandro Lavorante, Rocky Marciano, Paz-Duran, Injuries (part I), What If ... Pedroza vs. Sanchez.

Dec. 1994: Fighting-Mad! James Toney Just Wants To Beat People Up. Plus: Duran & Robinson, Don King, Mike McCallum, Injuries (part II), Tom Molineaux.

Winter 1994 (92-Page Special): Mike Tyson: An Exclusive Interview From Behind Bars. Plus: Best of the last 100 years, Jones-Toney preview, Injuries (part III), Miguel Angel Gonzalez, Jack Sharkey, What If ... Galindez-Conteh.

Jan. 1995: A Puncher's Dream: Oliver McCall Upsets Boxing's Balance Of Power. Plus: Ruelas brothers, Quincy Taylor, "Unfinished Business," Dave Maier, All-Time Top 10: Canada.

Feb. 1995: Return To Greatness? Mike Tyson Doesn't Know His Future ... But The Ring Does! Plus: Pernell Whitaker, Lennox Lewis, Mark Johnson, Orlando Canizales, Tom Johnson, Irving Cohen.

March 1995 (92-Page Special): Through The Years: The Incredible Career(s) Of George Foreman. Plus: Jones-Toney, Ali in China, Chiquita-Carbajal III, Hank Kaplan.

April 1995: Roy Jones—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Ex-champs Moorer, Holyfield, Lewis, & Bowe, Chavez-Lopez & Castro-Jackson, Olzubek-Gamache, What If ... Chandler-Pintor.

May 1995: The State Of The Game. Plus: Olzubek & Arbachakov, Gonzalez-Kelley, Pazienza-Duran II, All-Time Top 10: France.

☐ Apr/80	☐ Oct/84	☐ Sep/86	☐ Oct/88	☐ May/91	☐ Jan/94
	☐ Dec/84	☐ Oct/86	☐ Nov/88	☐ Jun/91	☐ Feb/94
☐ Aug/81	**All 7 $28**	**All 10 $37**	**All 10 $37**	☐ Jul/91	☐ Mar/94
☐ Oct/81				☐ Aug/91	☐ Apr/94
	☐ Jan/85	☐ Apr/87	☐ Jan/89	☐ Oct/91	☐ May/94
☐ Feb/82	☐ Feb/85	☐ May/87	☐ Feb/89	☐ Dec/91	☐ Jun/94
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	☐ May/85	☐ Jul/87	☐ May/89		☐ Aug/94
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☐ Sep/83	**All 10 $37**		☐ May/90		
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	☐ Mar/86	☐ Apr/88	☐ Sep/90	☐ Jun/93	☐ Mar/95
☐ Feb/84	☐ Apr/86	☐ May/88	☐ Dec/90	☐ Aug/93	☐ Apr/95
☐ Apr/84	☐ May/86	☐ Jun/88	**All 10 $37**	☐ Oct/93	☐ May/95
☐ Jun/84	☐ Jun/86	☐ Aug/88		☐ Dec/93	**All 5 $22**
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THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended July 18, 1996

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

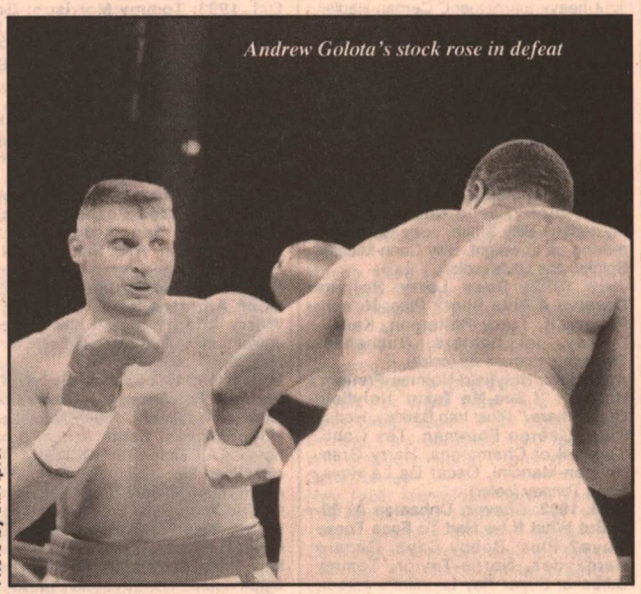
In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.



Andrew Golota's stock rose in defeat

Photo by Bill Apter

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **MIKE TYSON** Southington, OH *44-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **LENNOX LEWIS** England *29-1*
3. **RIDDICK BOWE** Fort Washington, MD *39-1*
4. **MICHAEL MOORER** Detroit, MI *37-1 (IBF Champ)*
5. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD** Atlanta, GA *33-3*
6. **ANDREW GOLOTA** Chicago, IL *28-1*
7. **TIM WITHERSPOON** Philadelphia, PA *45-4*
8. **BRUCE SELDON** Atlantic City, NJ *33-3 (WBA Champ)*
9. **HENRY AKINWANDE** England *30-0-1*
10. **ALEXANDR ZOLKIN** Westerville, OH *24-2*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 190 pounds

1. **NATE MILLER** Philadelphia, PA *27-4 (WBA Champ)*
2. **AL COLE** Spring Valley, NY *27-2 (IBF Champ)*
3. **ADOLPHO WASHINGTON** Lexington, KY *25-3-2*
4. **MARCELO DOMINGUEZ** Argentina *20-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
5. **FABRICE TIOZZO** France *34-1*
6. **TORSTEN MAY** Germany *15-0*
7. **KENNY KEENE** Emmett, ID *33-1*
8. **ALEXANDER GUROV** Ukraine *17-1-1*
9. **CARL THOMPSON** England *19-4*
10. **DAVID IZEQWIRE** Washington, D.C. *19-1*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **HENRY MASKE** Germany *30-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **VIRGIL HILL** Bismarck, ND *42-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **MONTELL GRIFFIN** Chicago, IL *23-0*
4. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI** Germany *31-0*
5. **JAMES TONEY** Ann Arbor, MI *52-2-2*
6. **MERQUI SOSA** New York, NY *27-5-2*
7. **MIKE McCALLUM** Brooklyn, NY *49-3-1*
8. **WILLIAM GUTHRIE** Philadelphia, PA *22-0*
9. **FRANK TATE** Houston, TX *36-4*
10. **ROCKY GANNON** Bay City, MI *25-5*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **ROY JONES** Pensacola, FL *32-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **FRANK LILES** N. Hollywood, CA *29-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **STEVE COLLINS** Ireland *33-3*
4. **NIGEL BENN** England *42-4-1*
5. **VINNY PAZIENZA** Cranston, RI *40-6*
6. **VINCENZO NARDIELLO** Italy *30-5 (WBC Champ)*
7. **BRYANT BRANNON** Trenton, NJ *16-0*
8. **HENRY WHARTON** England *24-2-1*
9. **MICHAEL NUNN** Davenport, IA *49-3*
10. **SUGARBOY MALINGA** South Africa *41-10*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **BERNARD HOPKINS** Philadelphia, PA *30-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **KEITH HOLMES** Washington, D.C. *28-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **WILLIAM JOPPY** Washington, D.C. *22-0-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **JOHN DAVID JACKSON** Seattle, WA *35-1*
5. **SHINJI TAKEHARA** Japan *24-1*
6. **JORGE CASTRO** Argentina *99-5-2*
7. **QUINCY TAYLOR** Dallas, TX *26-4*
8. **DANA ROSENBLATT** Malden, MA *28-0*
9. **LONNIE BRADLEY** New York, NY *24-0*
10. **OTIS GRANT** Canada *28-1*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **TERRY NORRIS**
   Mission Valley, CA *43-6 (WBC/IBF Champ)*
2. **JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ**
   Argentina *56-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **WINKY WRIGHT**
   St. Petersburg, FL *35-1*
4. **CARL DANIELS**
   St. Louis, MO *35-2*
5. **BRONCO McKART**
   Monroe, MI *28-2*
6. **LAURENT BOUDOUANI**
   France *32-2*
7. **HECTOR CAMACHO**
   Orlando, FL *61-3*
8. **RAUL MARQUEZ**
   Houston, TX *23-0*
9. **EMMETT LINTON**
   Tacoma, WA *22-2*
10. **ANTHONY STEPHENS**
    Shreveport, LA *27-7-2*

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Norfolk, VA *38-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Puerto Rico *29-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **IKE QUARTEY**
   Ghana *32-0 (WBA Champ)*
4. **OBA CARR**
   Detroit, MI *37-1*
5. **JOSE LUIS LOPEZ**
   Mexico *36-3-1*
6. **WILFREDO RIVERA**
   Puerto Rico *22-1-1*
7. **YORI BOY CAMPAS**
   Mexico *64-1*
8. **PATRICK CHARPENTIER**
   France *22-4*
9. **PATRICK COLEMAN**
   Chicago, IL *25-5*
10. **JAMES PAGE**
    Pittsburg, CA *17-2*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Whittier, CA *22-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Australia *17-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **FRANKIE RANDALL**
   Warren, OH *52-4-1*
4. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
   Mexico *96-2-1*
5. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *41-0*
6. **CHARLES MURRAY**
   Rochester, NY *37-3*
7. **JUAN COGGI**
   Argentina *70-3-2 (WBA Champ)*
8. **KHALID RAHILOU**
   France *27-2*
9. **FRED PENDLETON**
   Miami, FL *40-21-4*
10. **JAN BERGMAN**
    South Africa *32-0*

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **ORZUBEK NAZAROV**
   Japan *23-0 (WBA Champ)*
2. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
   Denver, CO *19-0*
3. **PHILLIP HOLIDAY**
   South Africa *28-0 (IBF Champ)*
4. **GEORGE SCOTT**
   Pembroke Pines, FL *29-1*
5. **JEAN-BAPTISTE MENDY**
   France *49-5-2 (WBC Champ)*
6. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Pomona, CA *19-0*
7. **LEAVANDER JOHNSON**
   Atlantic City, NJ *26-1-1*
8. **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
   Puerto Rico *39-4*
9. **ARTUR GRIGORJAN**
   Uzbekistan *19-0*
10. **IVAN ROBINSON**
    Delran, NJ *22-0*

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **AZUMAH NELSON**
   Ghana *39-3-2 (WBC Champ)*
2. **ARTURO GATTI**
   Jersey City, NJ *24-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
   Los Angeles, CA *33-1-1*
4. **TRACY PATTERSON**
   Highland, NY *55-4-1*
5. **YONG SOO CHOI**
   South Korea *20-2 (WBA Champ)*
6. **GABE RUELAS**
   Arleta, CA *42-3*
7. **REGGIE TUUR**
   Whitestone, NY *41-3-1*
8. **ROBERT GARCIA**
   Oxnard, CA *25-0*
9. **ANATOLY ALEXANDROV**
   Kazakhstan *27-3*
10. **JESSE JAMES LEIJA**
    San Antonio, TX *30-3-2*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **TOM JOHNSON**
   Detroit, MI *43-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **LUISITO ESPINOSA**
   Japan *39-7 (WBC Champ)*
3. **NASEEM HAMED**
   England *22-0*
4. **WILFREDO VAZQUEZ**
   Puerto Rico *48-7-3 (WBA Champ)*
5. **KEVIN KELLEY**
   Flushing, NY *45-1-2*
6. **MANUEL MEDINA**
   Mexico *52-7*
7. **EVER BELENO**
   Colombia *30-2*
8. **WELCOME NCITA**
   South Africa *39-2*
9. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
   Mexico *16-1*
10. **DERRICK GAINER**
    Pensacola, FL *16-4*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
   Mexico *42-0*
2. **DANIEL ZARAGOZA**
   Mexico *52-7-3 (WBC Champ)*
3. **VUYANI BUNGU**
   South Africa *30-2 (IBF Champ)*
4. **KENNEDY McKINNEY**
   Memphis, TN *29-2-1*
5. **ANTONIO CERMENO**
   Venezuela *24-1 (WBA Champ)*
6. **JUNIOR JONES**
   Brooklyn, NY *39-2*
7. **ERIK MORALES**
   Mexico *23-0*
8. **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
   Laredo, TX *42-3-1*
9. **ENRIQUE SANCHEZ**
   Mexico *18-0*
10. **ANGEL CHACON**
    Puerto Rico *19-0*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **WAYNE McCULLOUGH**
   Las Vegas, NV *20-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **MBULELO BOTILE**
   South Africa *20-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **NANA KONADU**
   Ghana *36-2 (WBA Champ)*
4. **JORGE ELIECER JULIO**
   Colombia *32-1*
5. **ANCEE GEDEON**
   Westminster, CA *14-8-1*
6. **VEERAPHOL SAHAPROM**
   Thailand *4-1*
7. **ROBBIE REGAN**
   Wales *17-2-3*
8. **PAULIE AYALA**
   Ft. Worth, TX *17-0*
9. **SIRIMONGKOL SINGMANASSUK**
   Thailand *12-0*
10. **DAORUNG CHUWATANA**
    Thailand *56-5-1*

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **HIROSHI KAWASHIMA**
   Japan *19-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
   Albuquerque, NM *35-0-2*
3. **DANNY ROMERO**
   Albuquerque, NM *27-1*
4. **ALIMI GOITIA**
   Venezuela *15-0 (WBA Champ)*
5. **HAROLD GREY**
   Colombia *21-1 (IBF Champ)*
6. **GERRY PENALOSA**
   Philippines *32-1-1*
7. **HYUNG CHUL LEE**
   South Korea *19-6*
8. **LUIS BOLANO**
   Colombia *23-0*
9. **POLO SAUCEDO**
   Houston, TX *11-2-1*
10. **SAMSON DUTCH BOY GYM**
    Thailand *16-0*

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Washington, D.C. *29-1(IBF Champ)*
2. **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
   Japan *22-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **SAEN SOW PLOENCHIT**
   Thailand *25-0 (WBA Champ)*
4. **ALBERTO JIMENEZ**
   Mexico *32-3-2*
5. **CHATCHAI ELITE-GYM**
   Thailand *23-1*
6. **CHOKCHAI 3-K BATTERY**
   Thailand *31-2*
7. **ALEJANDRO MONTIEL**
   Mexico *32-2*
8. **ISAIAS ZAMUDIO**
   Blythe, CA *42-5-1*
9. **JESPER JENSEN**
   Denmark *17-0*
10. **MIGUEL MARTINEZ**
    Mexico *34-10-1*

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **SAMAN SORJATURONG**
   Thailand *29-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **CHIQUITA GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *41-3*
3. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
   Phoenix, AZ *40-2 (IBF Champ)*
4. **KEIJI YAMAGUCHI**
   Japan *19-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **CARLOS MURILLO**
   Panama *31-2*
6. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
   Mexico *46-5-4*
7. **JESUS CHONG**
   Mexico *29-7*
8. **BABY JAKE MATLALA**
   South Africa *44-10-2*
9. **HI YONG CHOI**
   South Korea *19-2*
10. **MANUEL JESUS HERRERA**
    Dominican Republic *16-4-1*

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **ROY JONES**
   Super Middleweight
2. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Junior Welterweight
3. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Welterweight
4. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Welterweight
5. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
   Junior Featherweight
6. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
   Strawweight
7. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Junior Welterweight
8. **TERRY NORRIS**
   Junior Middleweight
9. **MIKE TYSON**
   Heavyweight
10. **MARK JOHNSON**
    Flyweight

NEW FACES

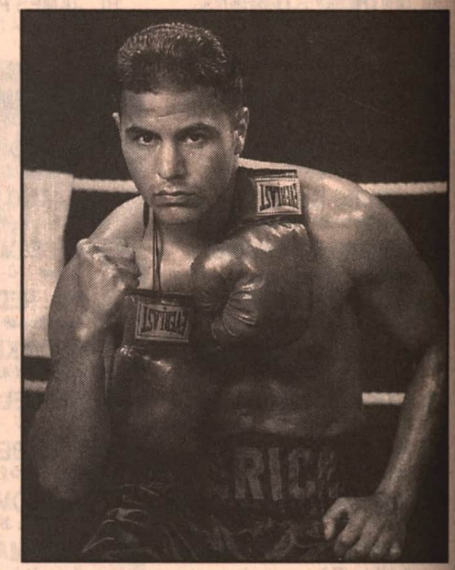
TARICK SALMACI

Junior Middleweight

By Steve Farhood

If you've read enough of our "New Faces" features, you know the common storyline: Inner-city kid, most often African-American, joins a boxing gym to stay busy—or stay out of trouble. Develops his skills. Stars as an amateur, then turns pro, dreaming of million-dollar paydays, multidivision titles, and everlasting fame.

That may be the common storyline, but it's not the *only* one. Consider unbeaten 154-pounder Tarick Salmaci, a Muslim of Lebanese descent who grew up in a tightly knit middle-class family in the Detroit suburb of Dearborn, Michigan. Unlike so many young fighters whose self-esteem, if not their entire futures, depends on success in the ring, "The Arabian Prince" has options. For starters, he and his brother Talal own Tarick's Cafe, a juice and espresso bar in Dearborn. Salmaci is a junior at the University of Michigan, and plans on taking journalism and broadcasting classes at Wayne State University this fall. And, as a spokesman for the Michigan Department of Health, Salmaci can be seen on billboards throughout Detroit, telling youngsters, "Don't let smoking knock you out."



"A lot of guys box because they have to," said Salmaci. "They don't really like the game. I box because I love it. Look at the champs who have made millions. They're still hungry. You either have that or you don't."

Salmaci's ambitious schedule aside, he's been hooked on boxing since first sliding on a pair of gloves at age eight. When he was 12, he teamed with Eddie Carr, who has been training him ever since. Carr is the father of welterweight contender Oba Carr, and when Emanuel Steward asked Eddie to join the Kronk gym in the late-'80s, the boys came with him. They didn't know it at the time, but they were about to receive the best boxing education available.

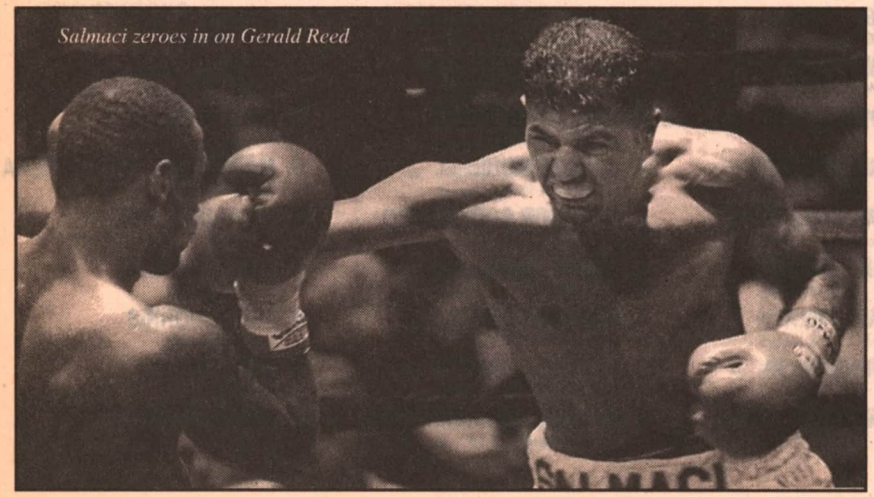
While representing the Kronk, Salmaci

(Continued on page 55)

PRO RECORD

1992		
Aug. 25	Bernard Wright, Auburn Hills, MI	KO 1
Nov. 24	David Lee, Auburn Hills	KO 1
1993		
Jan. 12	Errol Brown, Auburn Hills	W 4
March 23	Aaron McLaurine, Auburn Hills	W 4
April 8	Demetrius Davis, Atlantic City	W 4
May 15	Mike Hammond, Atlantic City	W 4
Aug. 24	Tim Dendy, Auburn Hills	W 6
Dec. 7	Bryan Blakely, Auburn Hills	W 6
1994		
Jan. 25	Tyrone Ingram, Auburn Hills	W 6
June 25	Terrance Parker, Knoxville	KO 1
July 20	Gerald Reed, Dearborn, MI	W 8
Sept. 21	Tyrone Mack, Inkster, MI	KO 6
1995		
April 26	Deltonia Clary, Auburn Hills	W 6
Aug. 3	Stacy Goodson, Detroit	W 6
1996		
May 23	Marcel Huffaker, Dearborn	KO 1

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KOs
15	15	0	0	5



Salmaci zeroes in on Gerald Reed

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FIGHTERS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

THE OLD STOMPING GROUND

From hard rock to rock-hard. Before that undisputed heavy metal champion, KISS, embarked on its summer tour, the gods of thunder put down their guitars and drumsticks and picked up dumbbells and jump ropes. In an interview with *Spin* magazine, band member Paul Stanley explained, "I said to the guys, 'We're training to fight Tyson, and if we can't go in there and whip his ass, we better stay home.'"

It's too bad the man who hopes to one day fight Tyson literally, not figuratively, can't seem to put down the chicken drumsticks and get *himself* into shape. But maybe now that Riddick Bowe knows he can't whip Tyson's ass, he'll stay home. Frankly, I've seen enough of Bowe, as well as his bandmates, guys whose idea of a heavy metal performance is whacking someone with a ringside folding chair.

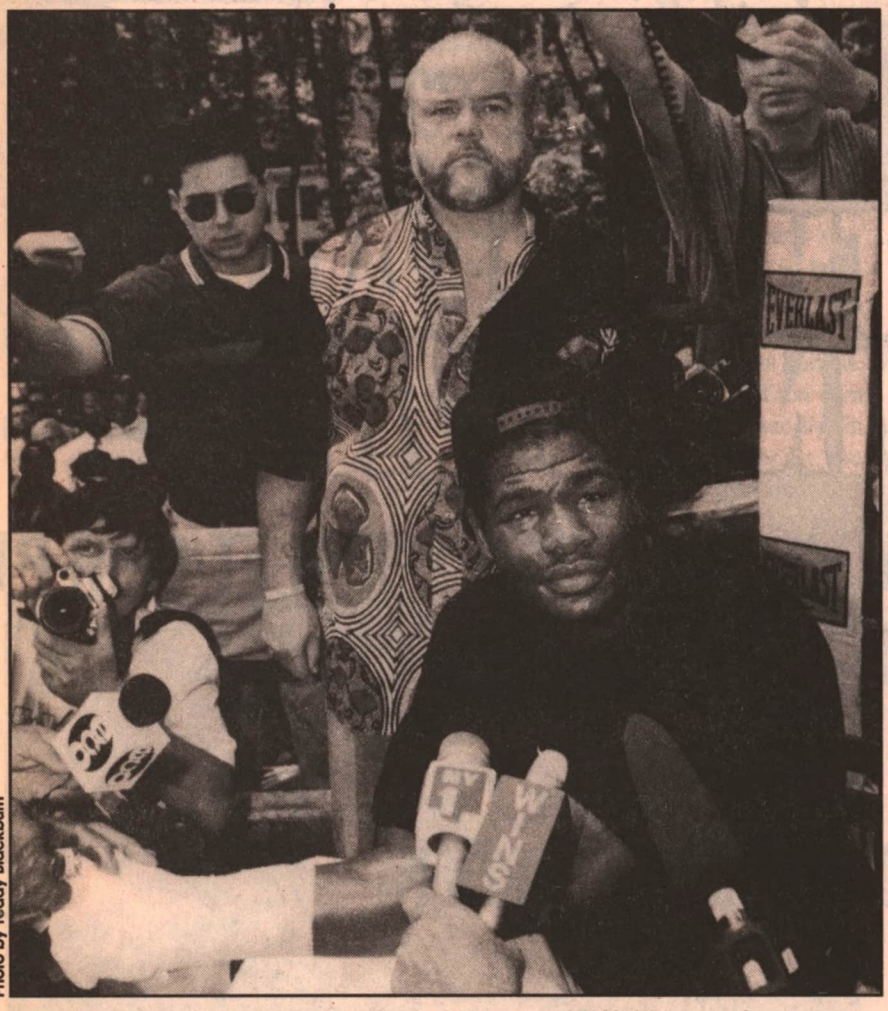


Photo by Teddy Blackburn

It would be an understatement to suggest that Rock Newman and Riddick Bowe are drawn to controversy. On July 11 at Madison Square Garden, the former was involved in a controversial fight and the latter in a controversial aftermath. And no one looked good.

Quite a show Bowe's supporters put on at Madison Square Garden in July, eh? What better way to protest what you think is a cowardly act—Andrew Golota hitting your man below the belt—than to whack the offending party with a cellular phone, gang up on his fans, and then kick the victims of your sucker punches when they're on the ground. There's logic for you. Of course, Team Bowe's logic has always been a bit backward. These are the same people who preach an anti-drug message to kids, then embrace Marion Barry, a convicted crack smoker, in the ring after fights.

In the aftermath of the mayhem, clips of which were broadcast all over the TV dial, sportscasters were quick to run that old cliche across the TelePrompter and label this "another black eye for boxing." Wrong. Boxing's eyes weren't swollen by this fiasco. They were finally opened wide. Now, everyone in the sport can see what only a few people allowed themselves to see before: that Bowe, his manager, Rock Newman, and a bunch of ringworms serving as his handlers are fakes and phonies.

They can also see what I almost learned the hard way two years ago: that attending an event at the Garden means taking your life into your hands if the crowd ever gets

unruly. And they can see one other thing: that the Duva family's hypocrisy is as limitless as the Bowe camp's supply of cheap-shot artists.

For some reason, Bowe has long received a free pass from many critics who presumably never wanted to depress themselves by admitting that there is no serious challenge out there for Tyson. So they downplayed Bowe's disinterest while losing his heavyweight crown, wrote that he was in "good" condition on those occasions when he was merely not as fat, and continued to talk about his "style" endangering Tyson, even after Bowe was floored by ringworn non-puncher Holyfield in their rubber match.

Yeah, we probably did see the second-best heavyweight in the world at the Garden, but it was Golota. He was faster than Bowe, better at taking a punch, and clearly on his way to victory. Sadly, his stubborn refusal to stop sailing his punches too far south cost him the upset of the year.

Photo by Stefan Pietroszek

With fights breaking out everywhere, the postfight scene at the Garden was ugly. Peace was not restored until New York City's police arrived. The question is why weren't they on hand before the riot.

Did Bowe take Golota lightly? Sure, but that's a convenient excuse. He took Holyfield lightly twice and would probably take Joe Louis lightly if that meant not having to train hard. When Bowe had the chance to turn into Rocky Marciano against Ezzard Charles and rally dramatically, he instead became Ken Buchanan against Roberto Duran—trying to stave off certain defeat by grabbing his groin. Those are probably the last jewels the division's poster boy for underachievement will ever get his hands on.

As for Newman, well, he can continue to fertilize the Garden with all his talk of regret. The bottom line is that he's the boss of Team Bowe, and has always set the behavioral tone.

It was Newman who first charged the ring and pointed at Golota, yanked Elijah Tillery over the ropes in 1991, punched a photographer the night Bowe won boxing's biggest prize in '92, and led his troops in the attack on Fan Man after the human UFO parachuted into Bowe-Holyfield II. (That was the night Team Bowe first discovered the wonderful assault potential of its cellular phones. *Reach Out And Club Someone.)*

Some Polish people were attacked simply because they were waving their country's flag. One brawler was even quoted in a New York newspaper as saying, "We showed them U.S. power rules." He was probably one of those guys you see at sports events who sits slumped in his seat, his baseball cap on sideways, and his mouth flapping to his buddies while the National Anthem is being played. Of course, when being patriotic means getting to throw punches at people who look and talk differently from him—*voila!*—he's suddenly Yankee Doodle.

Which brings us to the punks knowing that they could riot at will. How did they know this? Because anyone who ever set foot in the arena knows its crack security detail is unarmed and good for little more than pointing the way to the men's room. At a high school basketball game at MSG in '94, fans simply overran security and flooded the court in a celebration that quickly turned violent. That night, I saw 15-year-old kids raise their fists and challenge 40-year-old guards to start with them.

There were no police in the building then, or on fight night, because MSG never requests any. Following the hoops riot, it was revealed that Garden brass tries to avoid a police presence because cops on the scene would suggest MSG can't handle all matters internally. And guess what, MSG? You can't.

Finally, a word about the Duva family's outrage over what happened. While it was good to learn that Lou Duva wasn't badly hurt when he hit the canvas, it was amazing to hear him, of all people, criticize Newman's actions. How many times have we seen Lou storm a ring and scream in people's faces? The only difference is that the Duva camp, thank goodness, doesn't get worked into the same blind fury the family patriarch does.

And while promoter Dino Duva was right when he said too many hangers-on were credentialed for the fight, who is he to talk about credentialing? For years, the Duvas have used credentials and seating positions not as legitimate modes of access for people working a fight, but as weapons to punish journalists and opposing camp members they don't like.

The phonies all exposed themselves on July 11. Now I'd like to see Eddie Futch, Bowe's classy trainer, stop exposing himself—to the dual indignities of trying to instruct Bowe and working alongside morons. If the twilight of Futch's great career is to be sullied like this, he ought to retire.

And the troublemakers in the Bowe camp ought to crawl back under the Rock from which they came. ■

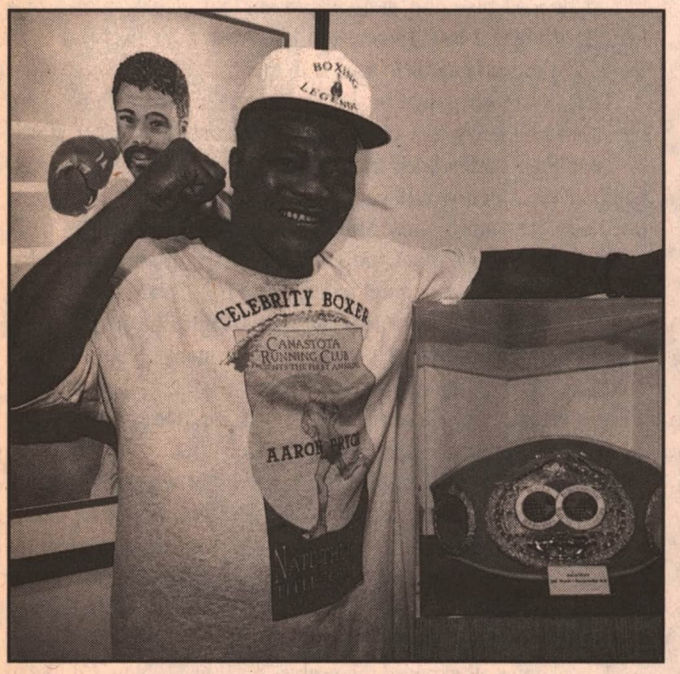
Induction Weekend at the International Boxing Hall of Fame

CAMERA CLICKS

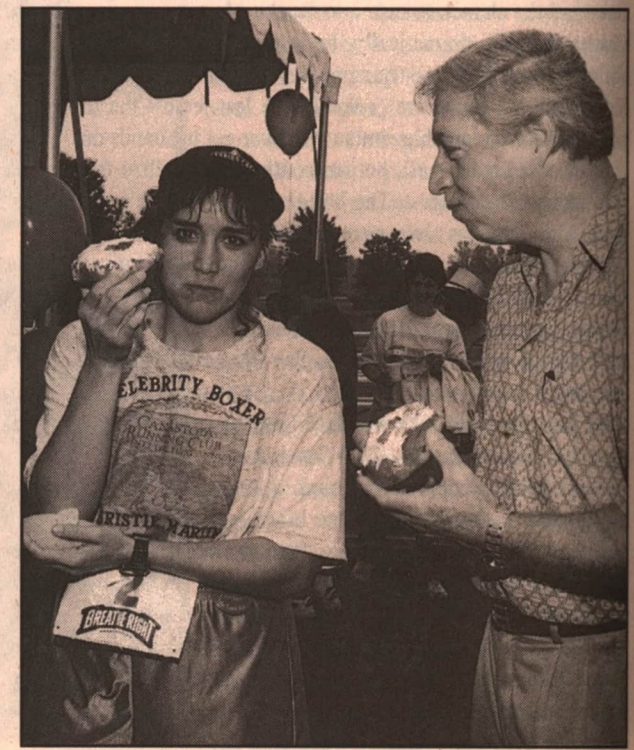
Photos by Pat Orr

A trio of Puerto Rican greats poses for the camera: (from left) Carlos Ortiz, Wilfred Benitez, and Jose Torres were ready to rumble in Canastota.

Archie Moore remains a distinctive and dignified presence wherever he goes. As usual, "The Ol' Mongoose" was a fan favorite at Induction Weekend.

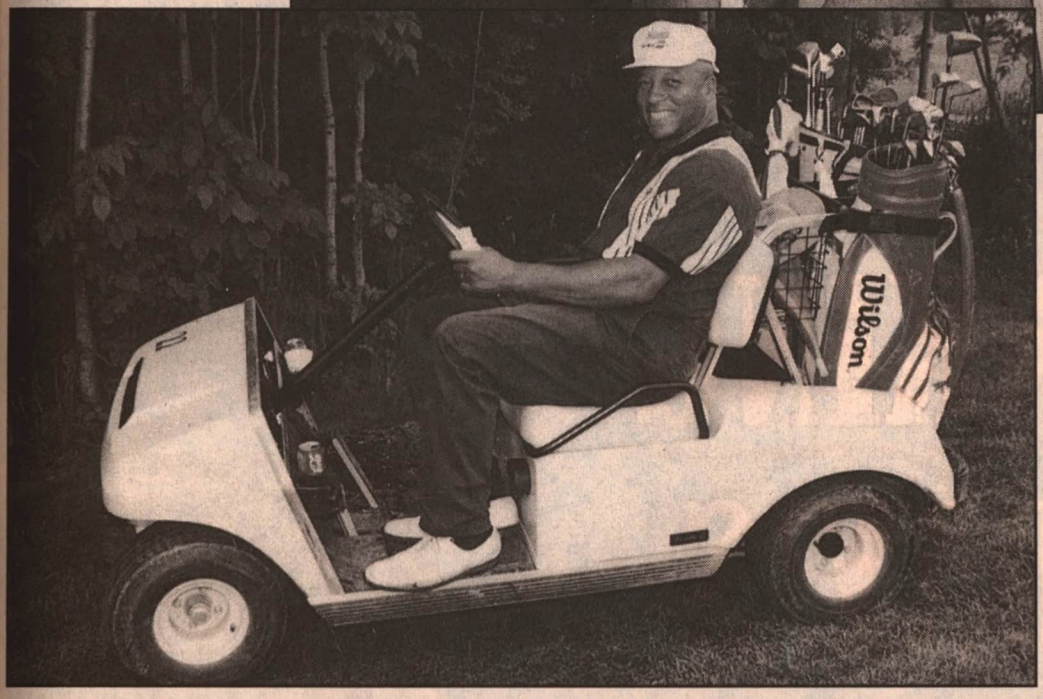


Aaron Pryor, a regular in Canastota, poses with his IBF championship belt. "The Hawk" was inducted in his first year of eligibility.



Her husband Jim is excused, but isn't women's boxing sensation Christy Martin supposed to be concerned with making weight?

How many memorable fights did these former world champions engage in? From left: Archie Moore, Jake LaMotta, and Floyd Patterson.



Hey, Bonecrusher, why are you looking for your golf ball near the trees? And if that's where your drive landed, why are you smiling?

Former lightweight great Carlos Ortiz is 59 years old and still has a world-class chin, but we're not sure he can take two punches at once.

Enjoying the parade of champions through Canastota is former light heavyweight champion Jose Torres and wife Ramona.

Tyson ... Tapia ... McCullough ... Hamed

RANKING TODAY'S MOST EXCITING FIGHTERS

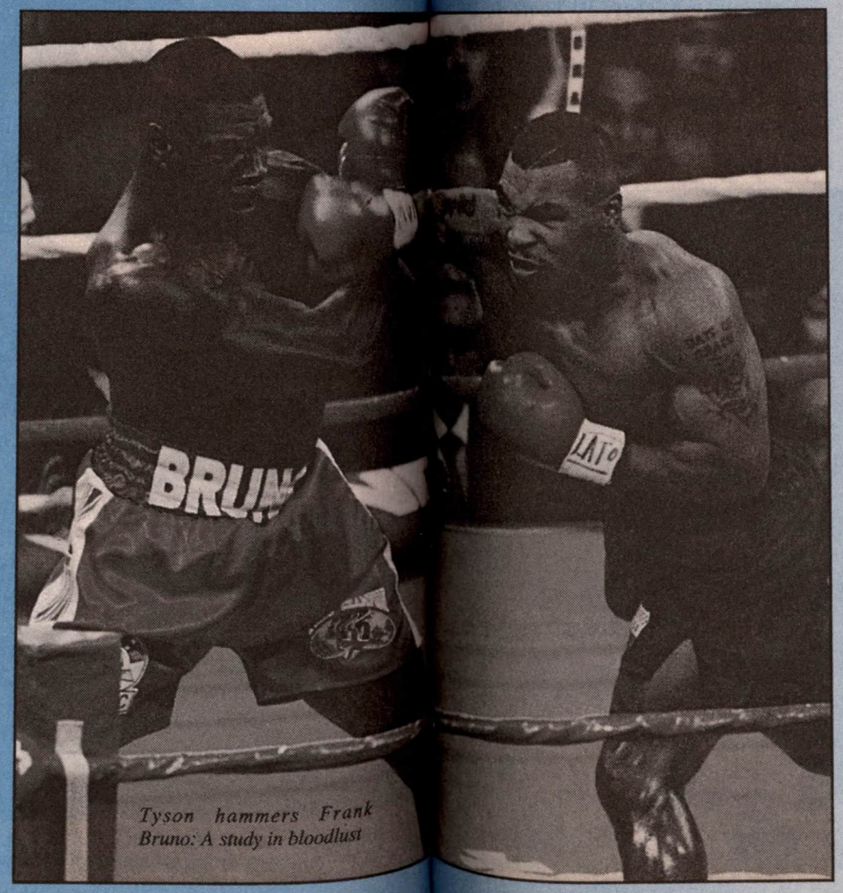
By Tommy Deas Jr.

You don't have to be the biggest or the best to be the most exciting. That's the lesson borne out in an effort to identify the game's 10 most exciting fighters, the ones who keep us on the edge of our seats and with eyes glued to the action, afraid to blink lest we might miss something special.

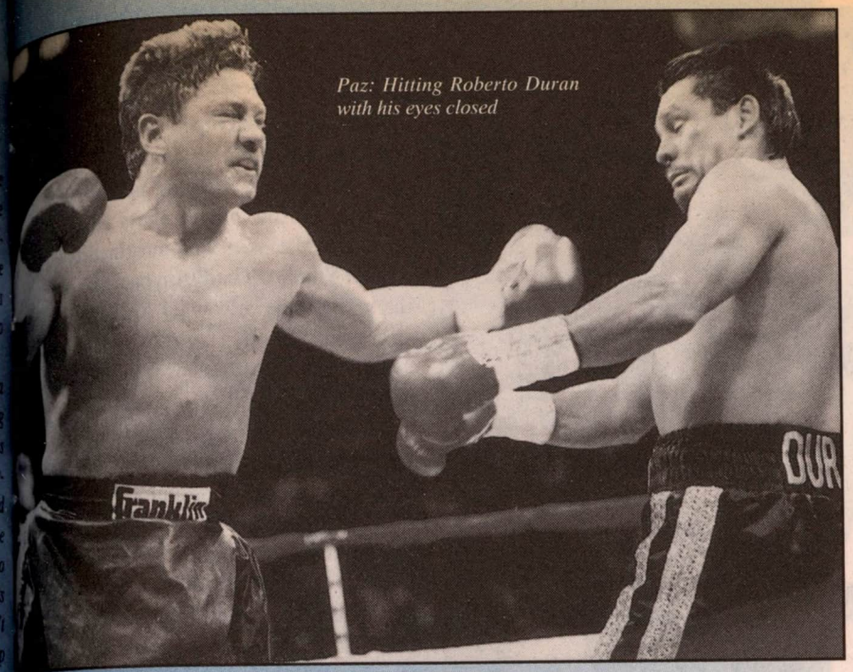
There's a magic ingredient that gains a fighter entrance to this club, something Pernell Whitaker can't generate with his smooth skills and Riddick Bowe cannot deliver with his powerful presence. Roy Jones and Terry Norris have the tools to raise the adrenaline level of the audience, but are too often content to play it safe and use their gifts to cruise to victory. It's the guys who can't seem to help themselves, the ones who end up in some sort of shootout despite their better judgment, who get the nod here.

Here, then, is an analysis of the men who give us the most bang for our boxing bucks.

Note: A fighter's longevity is rated from 1-10.



Tyson hammers Frank Bruno: A study in bloodlust



Paz: Hitting Roberto Duran with his eyes closed

1. MIKE TYSON

What Makes Him So Exciting: Let us count the ways. The WBC heavyweight champion can raise pulses with his brute power, but ultimately, it is Tyson's demeanor that creates the buzz filling an arena in the moments before the first bell of one of his bouts. Tyson possesses the simple bloodlust that draws both boxing fans and curious onlookers alike.

Did You See That? Everyone else did. Tyson set pay-per-view records against non-entity Peter McNeeley in his first bout after his prison layoff, and set a new rating standard for Fox Network when he followed that with a stoppage of Buster Mathis Jr. Imagine the kind of interest he'll generate when he ups his level of competition.

Most Exciting Fight: Since the majority of Tyson's bouts have been one-sided, it's easy to narrow the list. His first bout with Razor Ruddock, when Tyson absorbed the Canadian bomb-thrower's best before rallying to win on a controversial stoppage, rates highest on the thrill-meter.

Capable Of A Stinker? Before you dismiss the thought, remember Tyson's bouts vs. Mitch Green, Tony Tucker, and Bonecrusher Smith. If the wrong big man gets past the early rounds and plays for survival, it can result in a long night.

What Would Really Be Exciting: If Tyson and Don King decide to deviate from the plan and take on Riddick Bowe or Lennox Lewis before the end of the year—just to prove who's really the baddest man on the planet.

Longevity Factor: 8—unless he takes a look at his bank account and decides he no longer needs to fight for a living.

2. VINNY PAZIENZA

What Makes Him So Exciting: One look at the Pazman's mashed and crooked nose tells the whole story. Pazienza is an eternally willing brawler from the old school, and the "Pazmanian Devil" does it with style and panache. The man who came back from a broken neck to box again gets excited by the sight of his own blood. So do we.

Did You See That? Roy Jones bludgeoned Paz before winning by sixth-round TKO, but true to form, he never took the heart of the Rhode Island rumbler.

Most Exciting Fight: Pazmania was never more rampant than in 1987, when Pazienza won his first championship by lifting the IBF lightweight title from Greg Haugen.

Capable Of A Stinker? Doubtful. Any lack of action in a Pazienza fight will not be due to inertia on his part. Even when overmatched against Jones, Paz tried everything to overcome the odds.

What Would Really Be Exciting: The Devil may not be able to keep up with the Joneses, but how about a rematch with Hector Camacho or an overseas venture to take on Ireland's iron man, Steve Collins?

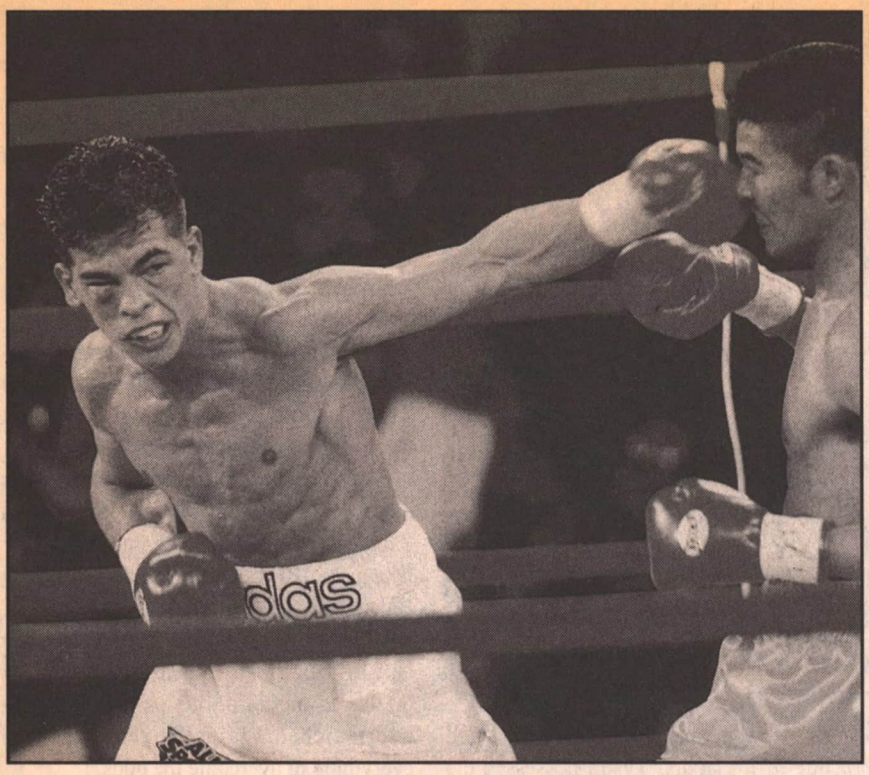
Longevity Factor: 5. Pazienza will have to be carefully matched to milk more than another year or two out of the sport.

3. ARTURO GATTI

What Makes Him So Exciting: Ask Wilson Rodriguez. This 130-pound bundle of dynamite has always been a fast starter and a big puncher, but the IBF junior lightweight champion took his stock to another level with his exciting come-from-behind knockout of Rodriguez. What he lacks in defense, Gatti makes up for in guts and determination. Gatti would have been at home in one of those old-time blindfold battle royales.

Did You See That? Gatti won't let a rulebook stand between himself and victory. When things looked darkest against Rodriguez, he let loose with a couple of south-of-the-border blows that helped change the course of the fight. Harry Greb woulda been proud.

Most Exciting Fight: Hands down, his knockout of Rodriguez, which sustained a Hagler-Hearns pace for six rounds. Coming off the canvas with one eye closed and the other swollen half-shut is a hard act to follow.



Gatti: Bombing away in his war with Wilson Rodriguez

Capable Of A Stinker? Gatti may not produce high drama every time out, but his go-for-broke style won't produce many dull moments either.

What Would Really Be Exciting: If young Gatti and the ageless Azumah Nelson lock up, the fireworks will fly. Both are there to be hit. Who could ask for more?

Longevity Factor: 6. Gatti is practically a babe at 24, but his style does not make for a long career. Periodic time off and a few easier fights every once in a while would be a wise course.

4. NASEEM HAMED

What Makes Him So Exciting: Some guys got it and some guys don't. This featherweight of Yemenite descent ain't exactly your stereotypical conservative Briton. If his over-the-top-rope ring entrance or his backflip victory celebration don't appeal to the gymnastics judge in you, then his electrifying presence and ability to throw power shots from any angle should capture your imagination.

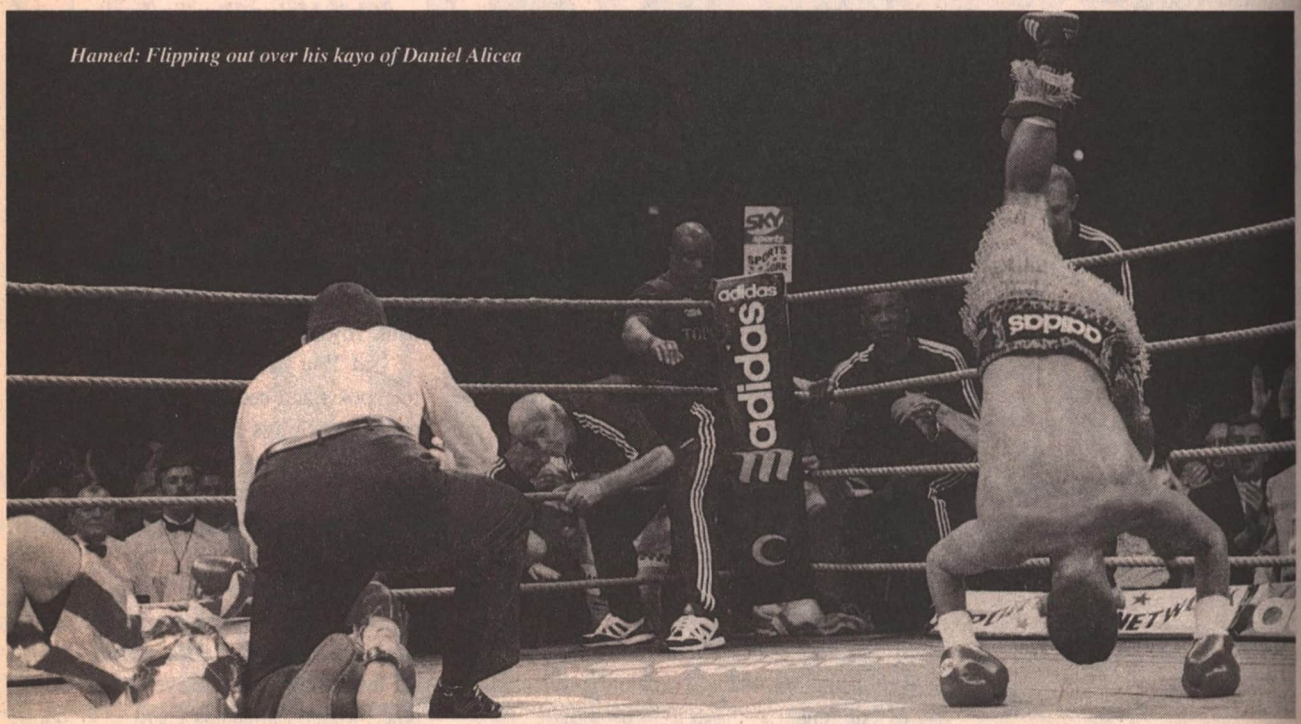
Did You See That? Anyone who chose the wrong time to wander to the concession stand didn't. Hamed's recent bout against Said Lawal was over in less than a minute.

Most Exciting Fight: Hamed was hammered to the floor by Daniel Alicea, but bounced back to crumble the Puerto Rican in the second round.

Capable Of A Stinker? Probably. One wonders if he will choose the same course as Camacho did after "The Macho Man" tasted Edwin Rosario's power. Hamed is trained by Brendan Ingle, who produced peck-and-run artists Johnny Nelson and Herol Graham.

What Would Really Be Exciting: A showdown with Marco Antonio Barrera. Two young lions in their fistic primes—such a matchup would top many wish lists.

Longevity Factor: 9. There is still much to learn about this mysterious prodigy, but the 22-year-old Hamed has the looks of a fighter who will be around for a long time. His appeal to British fans ranks second only to the beloved Frank Bruno.



Hamed: Flipping out over his kayo of Daniel Alicea

Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

Barrera: Giving and taking with Kennedy McKinney

5. MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA

What Makes Him So Exciting: If you have to ask, you haven't been watching lately. Those still seeking the successor to Julio Cesar Chavez for the hearts of Mexico's rabid boxing enthusiasts need look no further. Barrera stalks with a purpose, ripping lethal shots to the body and head. He has fight-stopping power in both hands, and just watching those bodyshots can make you squeamish.

Did You See That? It doesn't take top-level competition to bring out the best in Barrera, as he showed against capable fringe contender Frankie Toledo. Barrera battered his foe before winning by second-round TKO.

Most Exciting Fight: Traded knockdowns and power shots with Kennedy McKinney for 10 brutal rounds before winning by stoppage in the 11th to cap 1996's mid-season favorite for Fight of the Year.

Capable Of A Stinker? It's hard to imagine Barrera allowing fans to keep their seats. His ferocious pursuit of opponents and hunger to inflict damage assures ticket-buyers will go home satisfied.

What Would Be Really Exciting: If he isn't ready to step up to featherweight to face Hamed, Barrera could make a date with another member of this list who resides across the big pond, Wayne McCullough. Barrera would provide a warm welcome to the higher weight class.

Longevity Factor: 10. At the tender age of 22, Barrera could take off a few years to complete his law school studies and still come back for a long and fruitful boxing career. But let's hope he stays put.

6. DANIEL ZARAGOZA

What Makes Him So Exciting: Blood and guts. The game Mexican 122-pound champion has more scar tissue than the Frankenstein monster. Instead of a cutman, he should use a sewing machine in his corner. Zaragoza has been in more razor-close world-class fights than just about anyone in memory, several of which have led to memorable rematches. "The Mouse" was first crowned in 1985, and has been involved in 17 title bouts since. And his heart was on display in every one of them.

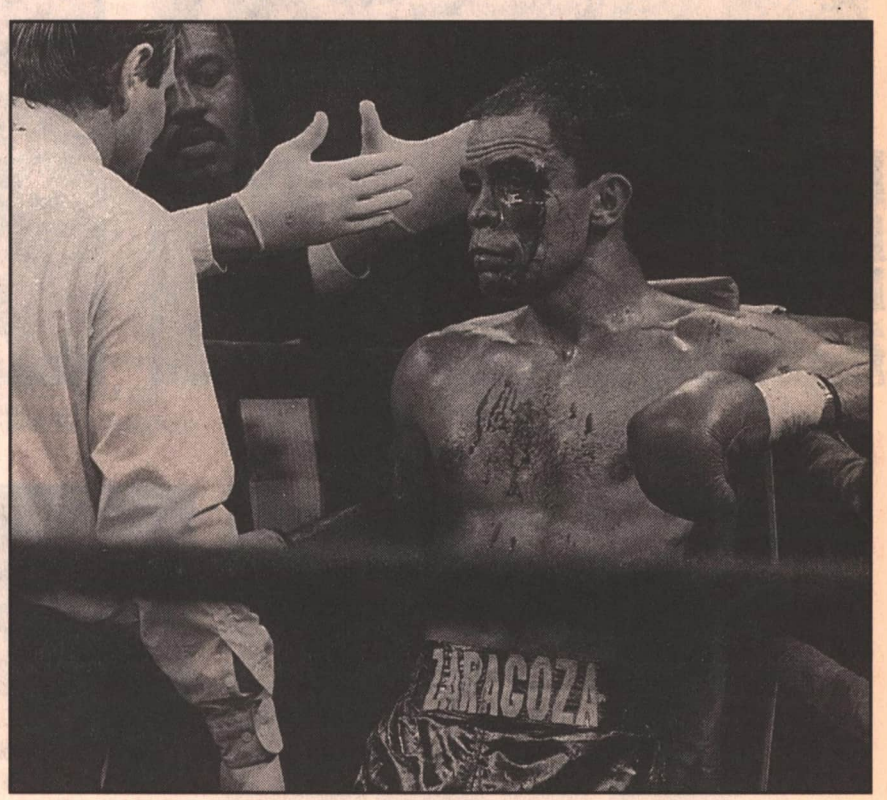
Did You See That? Just when everyone was ready to close the book on the 38-year-old veteran's career, he fought Hector Acero-Sanchez to a draw and won the rematch by a narrow margin.

Most Exciting Fight: Take your pick. A 10th-round knockout of Frankie Duarte in 1989 is typical of Zaragoza's all-action approach.

Capable Of A Stinker? To the casual observer, some of Zaragoza's distance bouts may seem monotonous, but they never lack for drama.

What Would Be Really Exciting: A showdown with Barrera would be a natural attraction that would raise temperatures in Mexico.

(Continued on page 57)



Zaragoza: A warrior used to the taste of his own blood

BOXING'S COMMISSIONERS SPEAK OUT

The Ring's Exclusive Poll

This year's Induction Weekend at the International Boxing Hall of Fame included a meeting of the Association of Boxing Commissioners. The ABC is comprised of the administrators of the various state commissions that run boxing in the USA. In an attempt to learn how the commissioners feel about a number of issues, THE RING distributed a questionnaire. Most of the commissioners responded. Here are the results.

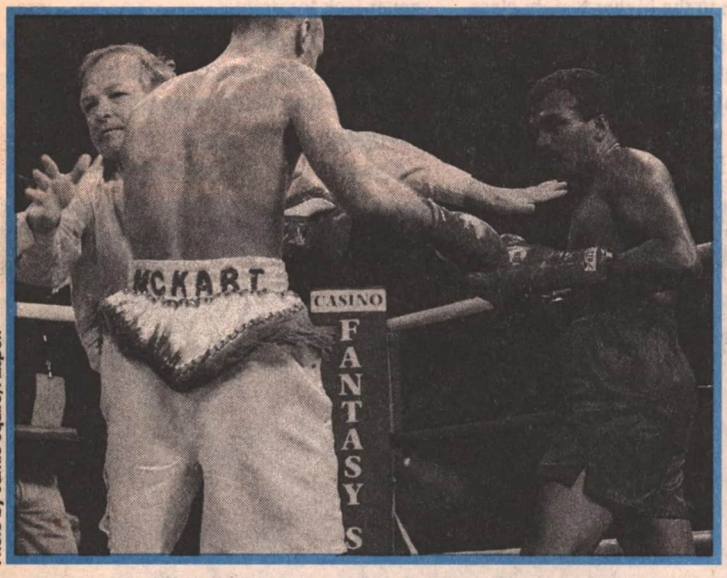


Photo by Jamie Squire/Allsport

Should referees have the standing eight-count as an option?

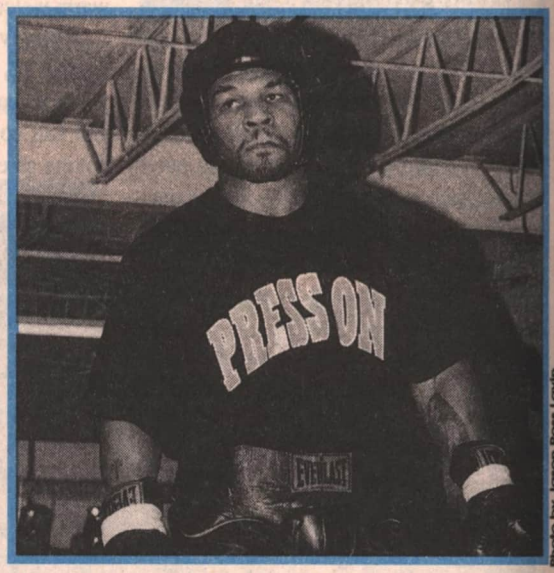


Photo by Jason Rose Levin

The commissioners say headgear should be limited to the gym

1. Do you favor the standing eight-count?

Yes: 73%
No: 27%

You probably have a strong feeling about this most controversial of rules; you think it's either an invaluable tool that lightens a referee's burden, or a rule best left in the amateur game that penalizes the fighter in control. The commissioners favor the standing eight-count almost three to one. Interestingly, we've found that about three of every four fans and insiders are *opposed* to the rule.

2. How much input should the alphabet organizations have in selecting officials for world title fights?

None: 19%
Some: 73%
A Lot: 0%
Total: 8%

The percentages prove that commissioners are politicians, too. Those who feel the WBA, WBC, and IBF should have *some* input are in favor of the status quo. Let's leave it at this: Recent history suggests that local

judges have been responsible for just as many embarrassing verdicts as alphabet-appointed judges.

3. Should there be an independent set of international ratings?

Yes: 84%
No: 16%

Most of the commissioners weren't shy about admitting that the alphabet boys just don't get it. Or maybe they get it all too well. Whatever the case, and regardless of who issues ratings, don't expect a return to the days when the New York State Athletic Commission was responsible for making and breaking champions.

4. Should headgear be mandatory in professional fights?

Yes: 4%
No: 96%

Sorry, but there's not much room for debate here. We're still waiting for the first study suggesting that headgear reduces the effect of brain-rattling punches. And if its use were ever mandated, imagine the outcry the first time a fighter had to adjust his headgear and got kayoed in the process.

5. If you could make one change in the way boxing is run, what would it be? (No choices were given.)

There were lots of votes for a federal or national commission. Other suggestions: uniformity of rules, independent ratings, a merit system for officials, mandatory compliance with the official list of suspended fighters, elimination of the alphabet organizations, consolidation of the alphabet organizations, the use of 12-ounce boxing gloves, universal use of the standing eight-count, federal backing of the ABC, minimizing the number of mismatches, and mandatory use of passport books for fighters.

6. Your state aside, which commission do you feel is run the best? (No choices were given.)

Nevada: 71%
Pennsylvania: 14%
California: 11%
New Jersey: 4%

Nevada, certainly the highest-profile boxing state, is the overwhelming selection. The credit must go to Marc Ratner. Pennsylvania was a surprise second choice, with New Jersey finishing a distant fourth. How times have changed: New York didn't receive a single vote.

7. What is the chance we'll see a federal, or at least a national, boxing commission?

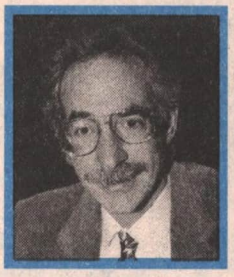
Never: 8%
Unlikely: 46%
Likely: 42%
Almost Definitely: 4%

Yes? No? How about a definite maybe? The commissioners are about evenly split on this one. The majority of insiders favor the inception of a federal or national commission, but that doesn't mean they believe they'll live to see it happen. For now, most will settle for Sen. John McCain's pending legislation that would standardize medical regulations and mandate that all boxing cards be overseen by a state commission.

8. If you could choose a federal or national commissioner, who would it be? (No choices were given.)

Marc Ratner: 31%
Greg Sirb: 19%
Others: 50%

A pair of well-respected administrators garner the most votes; Ratner is the executive director of the Nevada commission, while Sirb holds the same position in Pennsylvania. Six others received votes, including Colin Powell and Sen. McCain.



Marc Ratner

Greg Sirb

9. Should the 10-point must system be universally adopted?

Yes: 96%
No: 4%

It's hard to believe anyone would vote no. Of course, even if the 10-point system were universally adopted, the judges in various states would continue to implement it in different ways. But before the powers-that-be try to define the difference between a 10-9 round and a 10-8, how about everyone starting on the same page?

10. Should AIDS testing be mandatory?

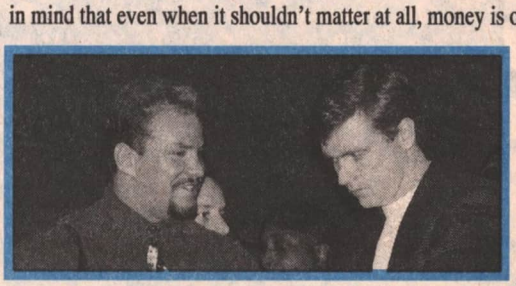
Yes: 81%
No: 19%

We suppose it's not politically correct to oppose universal testing. As a result, four of every five commissioners voted yes. Just wondering: What might the results have been had the Tommy Morrison story never broken?

11. If you're in favor of mandatory AIDS testing, who should pay for it?

Fighter/Manager: 63%
State Commission: 8%
Promoter: 29%

Apparently, the commissioners are fiscal conservatives. That's okay, especially given the relatively insignificant cost of a blood test. But keep in mind that even when it shouldn't matter at all, money is often an issue.



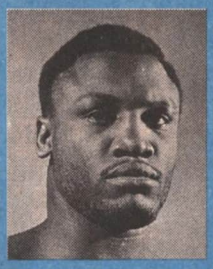
In February, Tommy Morrison (with promoter Tony Holden) tested HIV positive

BATTLE of the LEGENDS

Heavyweights

Fight fans will forever debate the merits of champions who never met in the ring. In "Battle of the Legends," the editors of THE RING play matchmaker and pit two of the all-time greats against each other. Three experts serve as judges. If there are particular dream matches that you'd like to see featured, write to us.

Joe Frazier



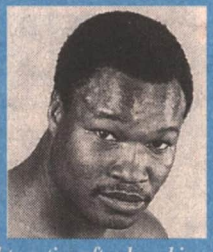
Philadelphia, PA
Career: 1965-1976; 1981
32-4-1 with 27 kayos

Winging his left hook with abandon and ferocity, Frazier was a typical Philadelphia fighter. He loved to battle chest-to-chest, bang the body, and engage in battles of attrition. At 5'11½", "Smokin' Joe" usually gave away height and reach. But in battles of heart, he was the ultimate warrior.

In March 1968, Frazier stopped Buster Mathis (KO 11) to win the New York State-recognized world title, and in February 1970, he gained universal acceptance by crushing Jimmy Ellis (KO 5). His biggest win came in defense of the title, a historic March 1971 victory over comebacking former champion Muhammad Ali (W 15).

Frazier defended the title four times before being stopped by George Foreman (KO by 2) in January 1973. He fought Ali twice more, losing by 12-round decision in 1974, and by 14th-round stoppage in "The Thrilla In Manila" in 1975. He remains among the most popular champions in history.

Larry Holmes

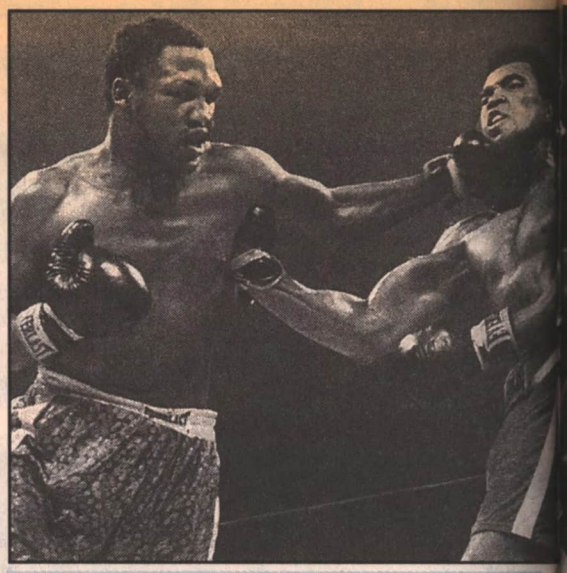


Easton, PA
Career: 1973-1986; 1988; 1991-1996
65-5 with 42 kayos

Never say never again. In June, Holmes, a boxing master who wielded one of the best jabs in history, promised to retire after knocking out Anthony Willis. But the 46-year-old legend has said goodbye before, only to return. Let's wait and see.

The most dominant heavyweight king since Joe Louis, Holmes won the WBC title in 1978, when he edged Ken Norton in a 15-round thriller. He made 20 defenses over the next 7½ years, rejecting the challenges of, among others, Mike Weaver (KO 12), Earnie Shavers (KO 11), Gerry Cooney (KO 13), Tim Witherspoon (W 12), Leon Spinks (KO 3), and Muhammad Ali (KO 11). In a major upset, he was dethroned by Michael Spinks in 1985 (L 15).

Holmes retired after losing a rematch to Spinks (L 15). Then, in 1988, he returned for an unsuccessful shot at Mike Tyson (KO by 4). A second comeback began in 1991, and included a surprise victory over Ray Mercer (W 12) and gallant tries in title fight losses to Evander Holyfield (L 12) and Oliver McCall (L 12).



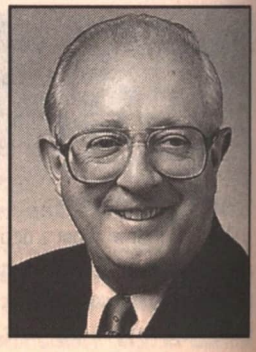
Muhammad Ali is among those who will vouch for the authenticity of Frazier's left hook. This photo was taken during the late rounds of Frazier-Ali I, which Frazier won.

DAVE ANDERSON

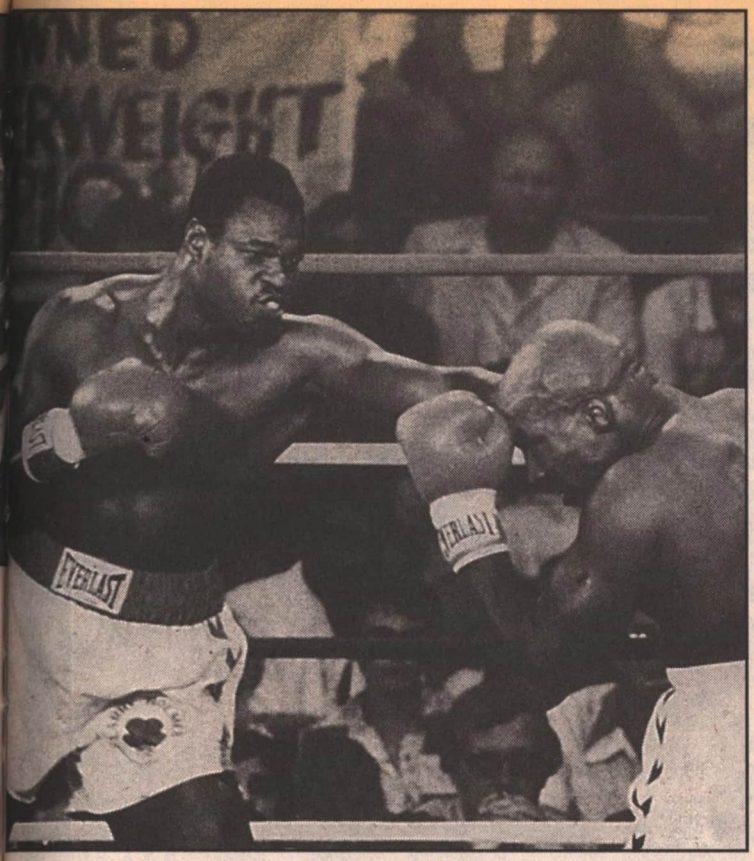
I always thought Frazier at his best was better than Ali at his best. But he was like a meteor in the sky; his best lasted only a year or two. The Frazier that fought Jerry Quarry, Jimmy Ellis, and Ali, and up to his first fight with George Foreman, was a whirlwind. His fury was incredible. He was a big Roberto Duran, the same type of fighter. He came roaring out of his corner and just overwhelmed his opponent.

Holmes was a terrific boxer with one of the best jabs I've ever seen. He was underrated, more or less ignored, because he succeeded Ali. Remember, he was a sparring partner for Frazier and Ali. He learned his trade, which is something nobody does today. He could outbox you, but that wasn't the only way he could win. He could also outlast you, like he did to Earnie Shavers in their second fight. He fought all kinds of guys and never lost. No heavyweights in that era can say Holmes ducked them.

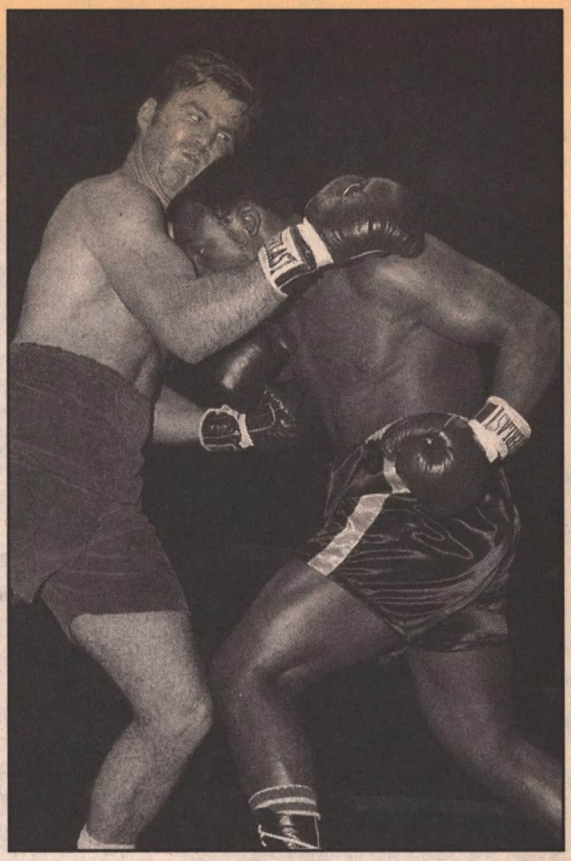
Holmes would look to keep Frazier away, but Frazier would come at him like a truck in the interstate. Holmes couldn't punch like Foreman, so he wouldn't knock Frazier out. Frazier's pressure would get to Holmes. He'd punish him and knock him out in the seventh round.



Dave Anderson is an award-winning sports columnist for the New York Times.



Holmes' chief weapon was his sterling jab, which he used to ward off bomb-throwing contender Earnie Shavers during their title fight in 1979.



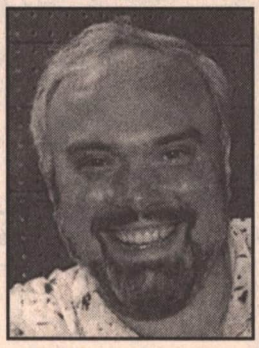
Frazier's style was to move inside until he could bury his head in his opponent's chest—literally. During his first fight vs. "Smokin' Joe," Jerry Quarry seemed quite uncomfortable.

JAY BRIGHT

Frazier's prime didn't last as long as Holmes'; that's a reflection of styles. But the Frazier who fought Muhammad Ali the first time applied amazing pressure and was as elusive as he ever was. Every time Ali took a breath, he was breathing on top of Frazier's head. I'd rate the chins of Frazier and Holmes pretty even, and you have to respect both in terms of heart.

Holmes was the consummate boxer, very slick, very cagey, with a terrific jab and a nice right hand. He used every ounce of the ability he had. Most of his defense was his arms; when you got close, he'd try to entangle you or block you with them. There are ways to counter that, like going to the body.

Besides Mike [Tyson], I don't think Holmes ever fought a guy who could pressure you to the ropes like Frazier. Frazier would take punishment, and his face would probably swell up, but he'd get past Holmes' jab and wear him down with awesome bodyshots. Frazier had that terrific desire to win. If Ali, with all the punches he landed, didn't wear Frazier down, nobody was going to. Frazier by stoppage in the late rounds.



Jay Bright trains WBC heavyweight champion Mike Tyson.

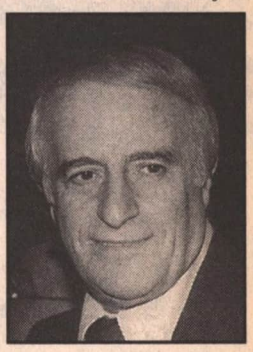
TEDDY BRENNER

Frazier could lick boxers who couldn't hurt him. Look what he did with Ali in their first fight, when they were both in great shape. He used to do the same thing with Ken Norton, who he used as a sparring partner. Norton couldn't hurt him, so Joe walked through him. The only way to beat Joe was to check his forward progress.

Holmes was a good boxer, but nobody boxed better than Ali, and Frazier beat him. Holmes had a good left hand, a great chin, and lots of heart, which kept him in there, as was the case in the last round of his fight with Norton. But he definitely didn't have enough power to hold off Frazier.

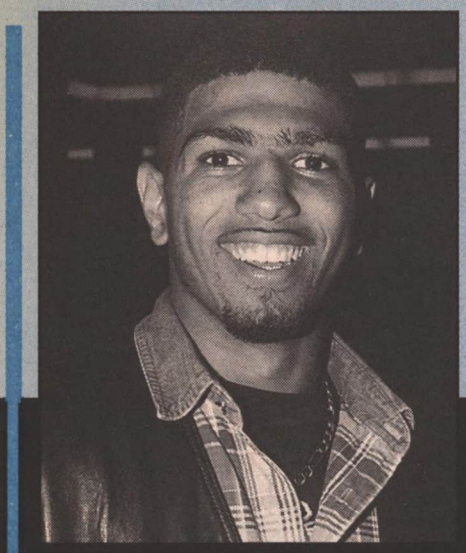
These guys were both good champions, but Joe Louis would've hit them on the chin, and neither hit hard enough to knock Louis out.

Holmes would come out and try to do what he does best—jab and make Frazier pay a price for his aggressiveness. But Joe's power would eventually wear Holmes down. He'd punch mostly to the body, but he always finished with a hook to the chin. Holmes wasn't a guy people stopped. Joe would give him a good going-over and win by unanimous decision.



Teddy Brenner, now retired, is considered the greatest matchmaker in boxing history.

THE MAN WHO BUCKED BRONCO



Winky Wright didn't as much as blink during his crossroads matchup against Bronco McKart. Afterward, however, he did smile.

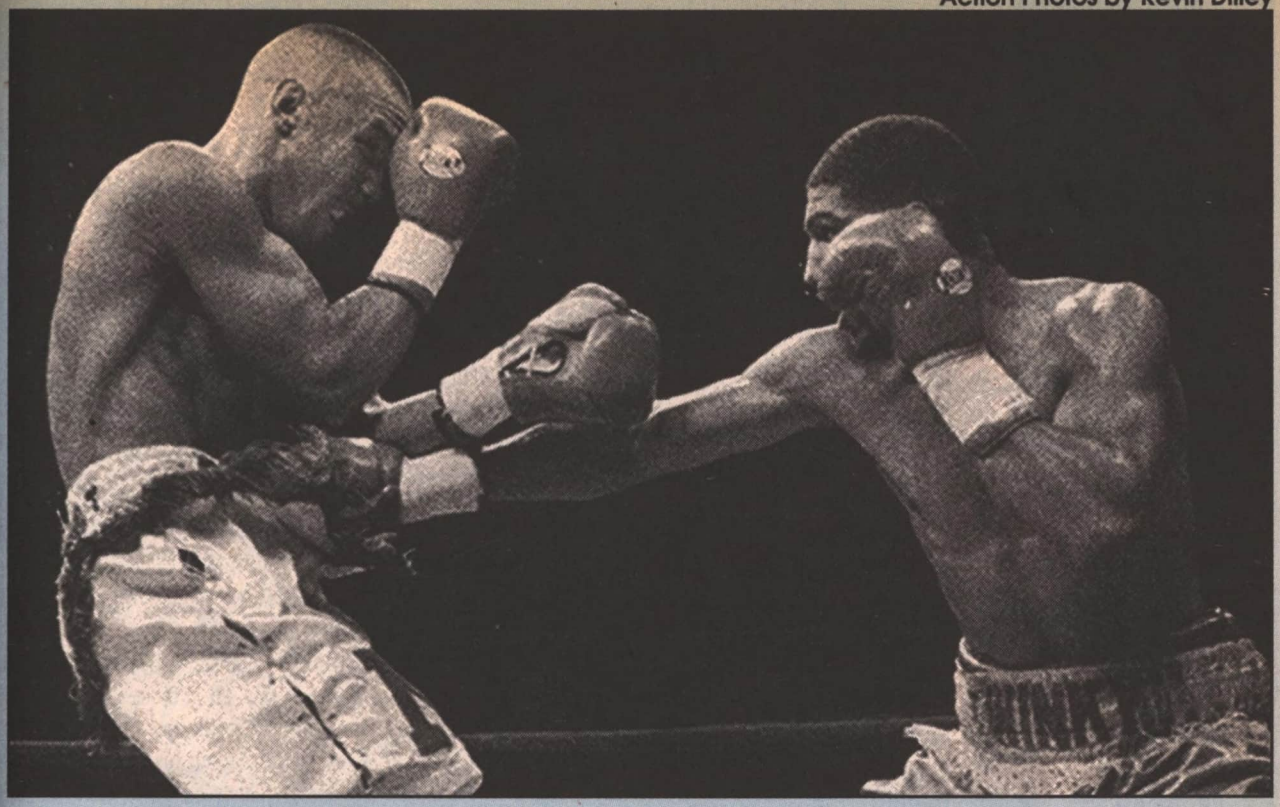
By Roger Mooney

It's a sizzling June afternoon in St. Petersburg, Florida, and Ronald "Winky" Wright brings his gold 1990 BMW to a stop in the parking lot outside of C.D. Roma's. Wright walks into the Italian restaurant and is greeted by himself. From a framed photo on the wall, he menacingly glares at the lunchtime crowd while posing with his junior middleweight championship belt.

The real Wright is less threatening. He smiles as he passes other photos of himself in action, nods over his shoulder, and says, somewhat sheepishly, "That's me." Wright's presence is quickly felt as a

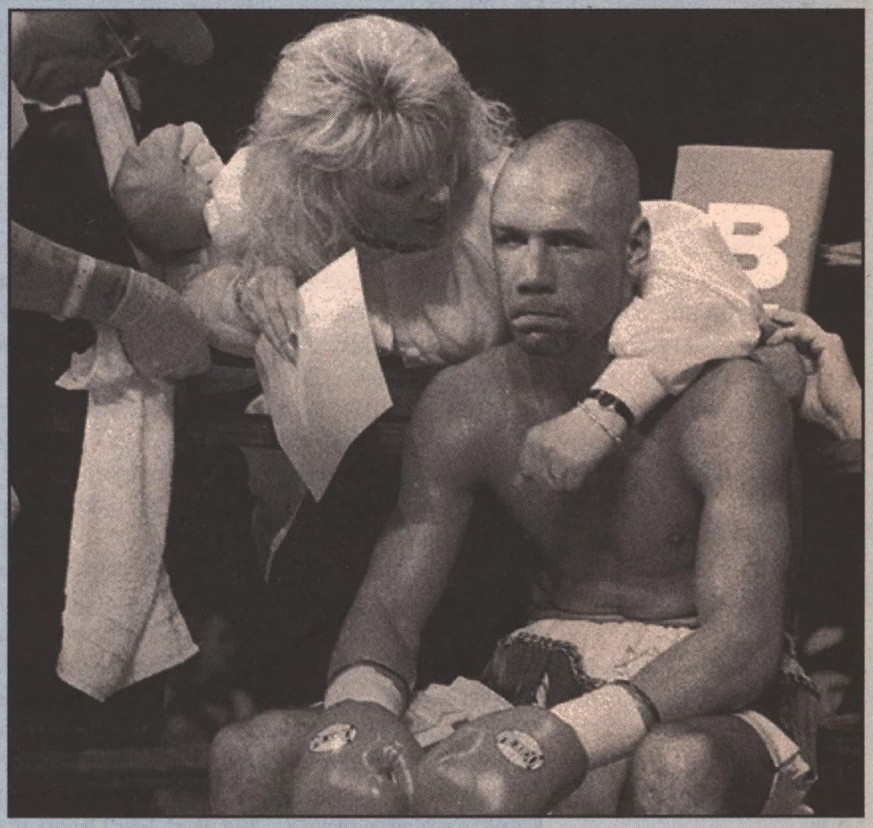
(Continued on page 58)

Action Photos by Kevin Dilley



Wright, a southpaw, built a solid points lead with his jab (above). In the late rounds, Jackie Kallen, McKart's manager, desperately tried to motivate her fighter by showing him a photo of his grandfather (below). Wright prevailed by split decision.

Winky: Doin' It The Wright Way



By Stanley Weston
Publisher, THE RING Magazine

TIME CAPSULES

THE DAY THE WINNER LOST

(July 3, 1926)

The blinding summer storm had battered Chicago all through the night. Morning brought no letup, and the raging winds off Lake Michigan continued to tear the city. Over at Comiskey Park, home of the Chicago White Sox, a boxing ring had been pitched over second base. Folding chairs covered every inch of the infield, making the 24-foot square ring look like a desert oasis. But nobody had the good sense to remove, or at least cover, the ring canvas, which by mid-morning had absorbed more than four times its weight in rain water. At one o'clock in the afternoon, only 2½ hours before a world championship fight was scheduled to take place in that ring, one Illinois state commissioner stepped on the canvas, causing a cascade of water to squirt up to his face. "They can't fight on this thing!" he roared. But he was overruled by other commissioners: "A little water never hurt nobody."

At 3:30, the lightweight champion of the world, 31-year-old Rocky Kansas (Rocco Tozzo), with about 200 fights to his credit, and what looked like at least one scar from each of those fights decorating his bulldog-like features, slipped between the ropes—and right into the ocean. Puzzled, the champ looked toward his manager, Dan Rogers, for help. Dan just shrugged his shoulders. "You won't notice it when we get started," he said. The champ knew better. Thirty-one-year-old feet don't move too well on water.

A thunderous roar greeted the 22-year-old challenger as he climbed the four steps, slipped under the second rope, and, literally, walked on water, swishing his way clear across the ring. Gallant sportsman that he was, he wanted to pay his respects to the reigning king. Sammy Mandell (Samuel Mandella) was the direct opposite of classic pug Kansas. His only scar, on the index finger of his glove-encased right hand, came from opening a defective pop bottle when he was a kid back home in Rockford, Illinois. His classic Latin features made girls swoon and men green with envy. He was called "Sheik," after the most idolized movie legend of the time, Rudolph Valentino. Mandell had big, brown eyes that glistened, thick, slightly curled black hair that was trained to stay in place even in the flush of battle, and teeth so perfect, they inspired famed sports columnist George Barton to write, "Those teeth fascinate me. I still can't believe they are nature's own. But even in doubt, I must admit they are true works of art."

Another respected sports scribe, Joe Williams, who would become longtime sports editor of the New York *World Telegram*, was captivated by Mandell's crystal-clear tenor voice. "That golden tenor of his fits perfectly with his heritage and continence," wrote Williams. "But not with his profession. You should hear Sammy tear off 'An Orange Grove In California.' I tell you this kid is positively a wow. No fooling."

Mandell's array of natural boxing skills were enough not only to keep him out of harm's way, but to make him a world-class fighter. However, world-class fighters clutter the sport's history. For a very special handful, there is reserved category of elite. What, or who, was responsible for Sammy's transition from world-class to elite status? You'll never find the answer in any of the countless articles about his life and career.

One day, back in the '50s, I had lunch with immortal trainer Ray Arcel at Jack Dempsey's Broadway restaurant. At the time, I was working on an article about the extraordinary relationship between Benny Leonard and his mother; how she made Benny retire as undefeated lightweight champion while he was still in his prime. To his dying day, Arcel insisted that Leonard was the greatest fighter who ever lived. "Benny could easily have held that title seven or eight more years," Ray said. "And Jimmy Goodrich and Rocky Kansas would never have been lightweight champions."

Arcel paused, then continued. "Sammy Mandell? Well, he probably would have won the title. And you know who he had to thank for that, don't you?" I shook my head no. "Jack Blackburn," Arcel said, revealing something I had never heard before or since. Blackburn, unquestionably one of the

Counterclockwise from left, above: Challenger Sammy Mandell puffs out his chest as he watches stocky lightweight champion Rocky Kansas weigh in at 134 pounds; a second pulls the robe protecting Mandell from the pouring rain off his shoulders before the start of the sixth round; during one of countless clinches, the much shorter Kansas scrapes an open glove across Sammy's face; new champion Mandell waves proudly to the milling crowd as manager Eddie Kane holds the gloves that would become one of Sammy's most cherished mementos.

greatest of trainers, and the man most responsible for Joe Louis' phenomenal success, had a connection with Mandell years before he connected with Louis. Arcel explained that Sammy's manager, cagey Eddie Kane, had hired Blackburn to train, teach, and father Sammy while the fighter was still a teenage featherweight.

"Mandell was a natural," Arcel said, "but it was Jack Blackburn who laid the foundation for what he became: a great champion." Ray didn't know why Blackburn had suddenly passed out of Sammy's life after only 15 months.

Though Mandell was unquestionably the top contender for Kansas' lightweight crown in the summer of 1926, it took a $50,000 guarantee to coax ringworn Rocky into that soggy ring at Comiskey Park. It was a strange deal, hacked out by the two managers. Challenger Mandell would receive 55 percent of 90 percent of the net gate. From Sammy's cut, he would deliver $50,000 to Kansas within 24 hours of the fight. This is how things worked out: A less-than-expected crowd of 15,370, held down by the unceasing rain, shelled out $73,988.90. The bottom line for Mandell: a net loss of $13,375.50.

Oh, yes, the fight. You want to know about the fight. What fight? Had the crowd had any inkling of what was to come, Mandell's out-of-pocket-loss would have been a lot worse. There were more clinches than there were mosquitoes buzzing around the ballpark. The champion's tree-like legs kept sinking into the spongy canvas, preventing him from generating enough leverage to launch his vaunted body attack, and making him a standup target for Sammy's spearing jabs. Rocky didn't have a prayer of catching the fleet-footed, nine-years-younger boxing master, who taunted him with the grace of a matador. At the end of 10 rounds (mandatory limit under Illinois law), referee Phil Collins raised Mandell's right hand and pronounced him new lightweight champion of the world.

Kansas, $50,000 richer and sans the responsibility of a tilted crown wobbling on his head, shuffled home to Buffalo, New York, never to fight again. Mandell, almost $14,000 poorer, raced home to Rockford, where in a few days he would marry his childhood sweetheart. Everybody was happy, and nobody got hurt. That's for sure. ■

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HALL OF FAMER

Joe BROWN

Appreciating A Great Lightweight Champion

By Nigel Collins

The elderly gentleman stood there staring vacantly into the camera, perhaps not quite sure what was expected of him. Then someone said, "Hey, Joe, show us your stance." In a flash, the old warrior snapped into his fighting pose, hands up, chin down, legs bent slightly at the knees. Instantly, the years evaporated, and instead of a wizened senior citizen, you were looking at Joe Brown, the former undisputed lightweight champion of the world, the legendary "Old Bones."

Until his induction into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in June, Brown had been out of the spotlight for decades. To the casual boxing fans, he was just a name from the past, another moldy oldie from a bygone era. But to historians and those old enough and fortunate

Hall of Fame Photos by Pat Orr

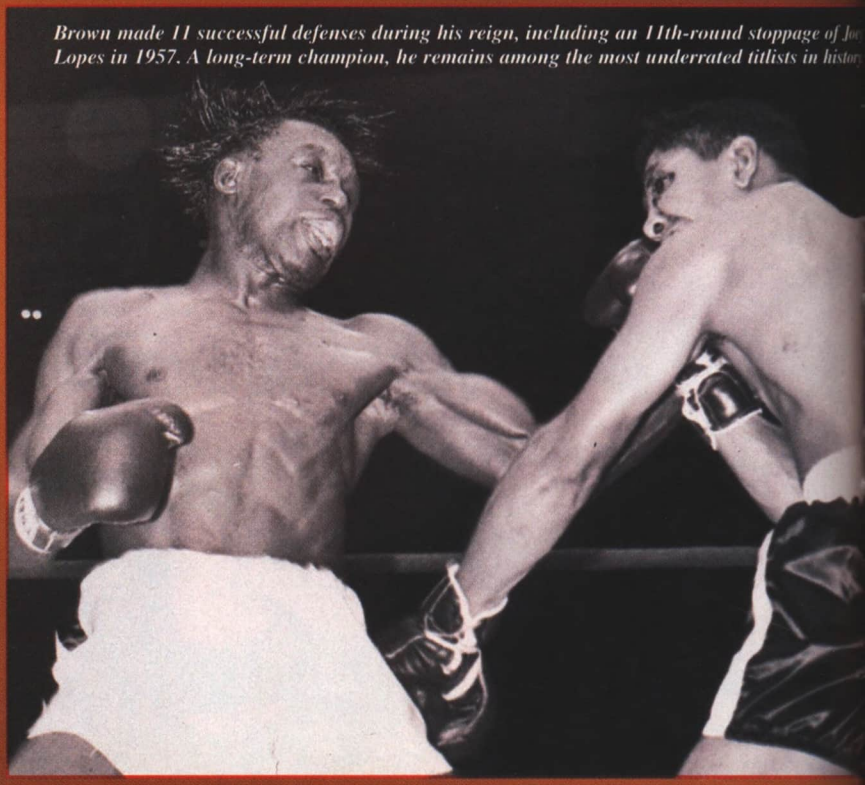
enough to have seen him fight, Brown will always be remembered as one of the unsung greats.

At a time when being a world champion really meant something—when there were only eight weight classes and just one titlist in each—Brown made 11 successful defenses, a division record that stood for almost 20 years, or until Roberto Duran eclipsed him by one. But that was a long time ago, back before Julio Cesar Chavez was born. Today, Brown is a slow-moving 70, his physically descriptive nickname more apropos than ever.

Despite his frail appearance, Brown's mind is still as sharp as the lethal combinations he used to throw, and as he spoke about his adventures, both inside and out of the ring, the past came alive. He sat birdlike, perched on the edge of his bed, in a Canastota, New York, motel room, talking in a gruff whisper, obviously relishing the opportunity to relive his former glories.

Brown was born in New Orleans on May 18, 1926, the only son (he had two sisters) of a man described as "a carpenter" in old press kits.

"My father was many things," said Brown with a chuckle. "He was a rascal, and he was pretty rough. If you fought me, you had to fight him."



Brown made 11 successful defenses during his reign, including an 11th-round stoppage of Joe Lopes in 1957. A long-term champion, he remains among the most underrated titlists in history.

Brown's athletic prowess first manifested itself on the fields of McKinley High in Baton Rouge, where he played baseball and basketball. But it was on the gridiron that the undersized Brown really shined as the team's star halfback.

"I was a small guy, but I was quick and played just as rough as the big guys," said Brown. "If I hit a 200-pound guy in the open field, I'd knock him skyhigh."

Some versions of Brown's record list a single pro fight in 1943, while others claim he turned pro in '46. But either way, shortly after the United States entered World War II, he enlisted in the Navy, and soon found himself aboard a minesweeper in the South Pacific. He participated in eight island invasions, and the memories of those harrowing years are still vivid 50 years later.

"I can't forget it, man," said Brown. "It was strange. I was an 18-year-old guy on a 220-foot ship, and got thrown right in the worst stuff. We had to clean out the land mines, and I was afraid of stepping on one of them."

It was also during his three-year tour of duty with the Navy that Brown first earned a reputation as an outstanding boxer, going undefeated against a wide assortment of service champions and locals. When he returned home, he figured the reputation he'd built would be a shortcut to fame and fortune in the professional ranks. But it didn't work out that way.

Despite winning on a regular basis, and beating such topnotch fighters as

During Induction Weekend at the International Boxing Hall of Fame, Brown and Carlos Ortiz squared off, bringing back memories of their lightweight title fight of 1962.

Jimmy Carter, Virgil Akins, and Isaac Logart, Brown didn't get a title shot until 1956, 10 years and 88 fights after mustering out of the Navy. It was during those lean years that he began what would become a career-long habit, traveling abroad in order to get enough work to keep body and soul together. He fought in Canada, Australia, and Panama, sometimes for as little as $300.

The breakthrough came when Brown signed with influential manager Lou Viscusi, who also handled featherweight champion Willie Pep. Those were the days when gangsters such as Frankie Carbo, formerly a big gun with Murder Incorporated, ran boxing and controlled many of the world titles, including the lightweight championship. According to Dan Parker, the crusading sports columnist for the *New York Mirror*, Viscusi was one of Carbo's "front men."

"Well, I heard rumors like that, too, but if he was, I didn't know too much about it," said Brown. "I knew that those guys knew him, but Viscusi already had money. The money he made from Pep and me was gravy. I was already beating everybody they put in the ring with me. But it was hooking up with Viscusi that got me the title fight."

Regardless of whether or not Viscusi was in bed with the mob, Brown claimed he was never asked to carry an opponent or throw a fight.

"Every fight I was having was a must-win type of fight," he recalled. "That's why I had so many knockouts. I wanted to keep winning so I could demand the top money."

The association with Viscusi soon paid off, and in May '56, Brown beat reigning lightweight champion Bud Smith in a 10-round non-title bout. They fought again in August with the title on the line, and Brown won a 15-round decision. But Smith didn't make it easy for him.

Fighting before his hometown fans at New Orleans' Municipal Arena, Brown broke his right hand in the second round, and was cut over the right eye shortly thereafter. Realizing that he had to do something spectacular if he wanted to win the title, Brown gambled in the 14th, unloading with his damaged right. (X-rays would later confirm that there was a broken bone in the wrist.) A combination caught Smith coming in, and he slumped to the canvas, blood streaming from his nose and mouth. He rose as the count reached seven, but Brown sent him down again with a blistering attack. The champion was still on his knees when the bell came to his rescue.

Brown kept his injured right cocked throughout the 15th, but never threw it with conviction, figuring his big rally the previous round had been enough to win the title. He was right, but only just. The decision was split, and prompted a rematch six months later. The third Brown-Smith encounter clearly established Brown's superiority. Smith, his left eye closed, and bleeding from a cut inside his mouth, was ruled unfit to come out for the 11th round.

(Continued on page 54)

Among those who were enshrined alongside Brown in Canastota were Wilfred Benitez, shown with his mother Clara (above), manager and trainer Emanuel Steward (below), and Aaron Pryor, who was overcome with emotion (right).

ANDREW GOLOTA vs. RIDDICK BOWE

The Loser Is The Only Winner

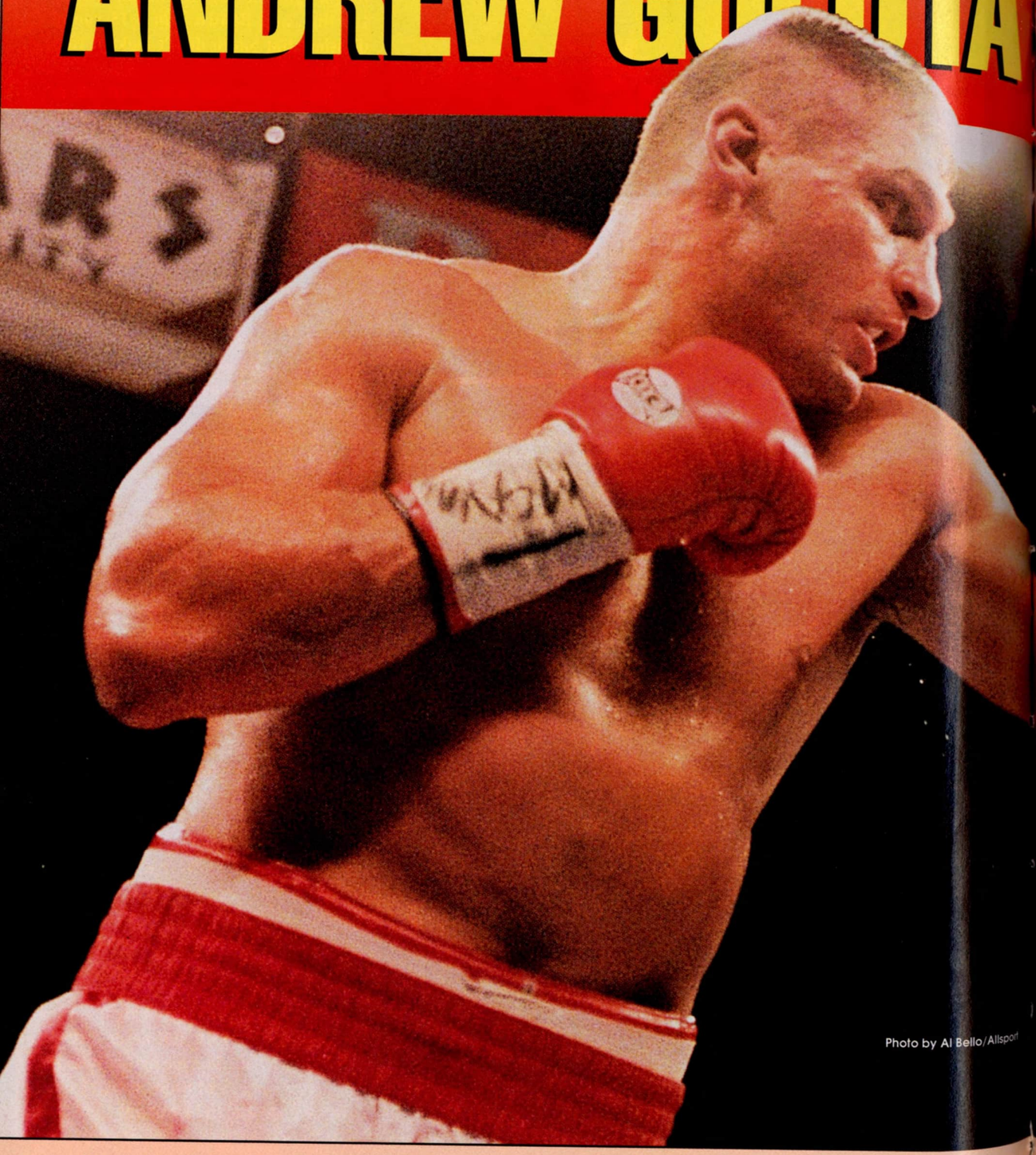
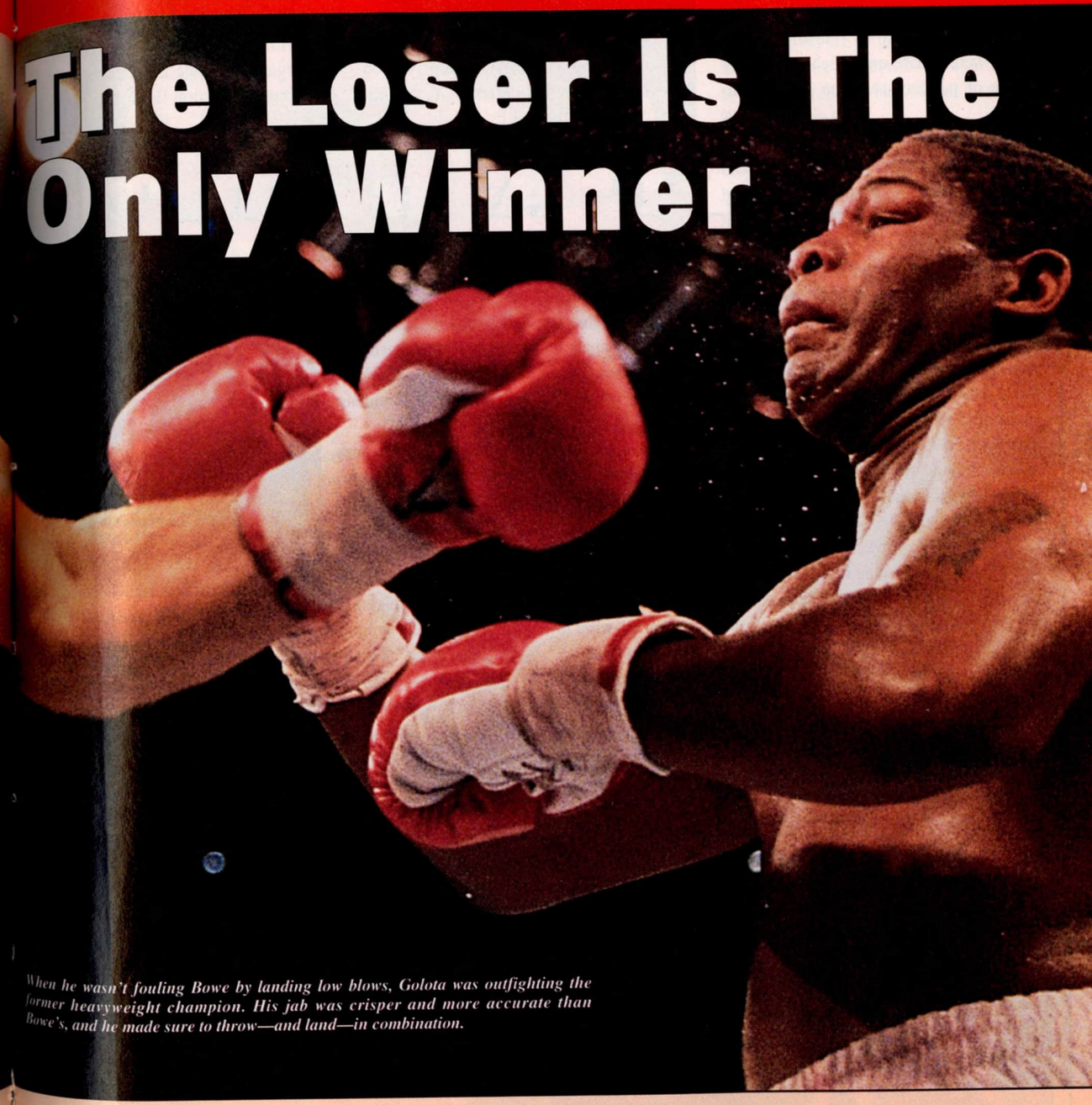


Photo by Al Bello/Allsport



When he wasn't fouling Bowe by landing low blows, Golota was outfighting the former heavyweight champion. His jab was crisper and more accurate than Bowe's, and he made sure to throw—and land—in combination.

By Steve Farhood

Every eye in the house was on the batter, who cocked his piece of lumber, took a major-league-looking practice swing or two, and steadied himself. All the cameras were focused on one image. No one breathed, much less spoke, for what seemed like a very long time, but was really only a few seconds. The truth would be defined by this single moment, and the tension … oh, the tension!

It was easy to imagine Mel Allen saying, "Here's the windup, and the pitch …" Then, suddenly, it happened: a Ballantine blast. Howie Albert, a longtime manager and cornerman, swung the barrel of the bat through the strike zone and connected against a stationary target, Chris Fox, smacking him in the groin. Then he did it again. And again. Three strikes, you're—ouch! *How about that!*

So what if the 74-year-old designated hitter's swings weren't exactly of Ruthian proportions. Even a *check*-swing to the *cojones* has to hurt, right? But Fox, a 22-year-old intern with Main Events, which promotes Andrew Golota, didn't blink or budge. That's because he was wearing a state-of-the-art protector. Or maybe because Albert is nothing but a punch-and-judy singles hitter. "It just felt like pressure there," Fox said. "But there was no pain."

This wasn't an advertisement for boxing equipment. Instead, promoter Dino Duva's theatrical—and fairly ridiculous—

production was meant to prove that the low blows Golota had landed against Riddick Bowe at Madison Square Garden six days earlier had had nowhere near the effect Bowe's reactions suggested.

"Anything less than a bolo punch that catches the tip of the cup from an acute angle would have that effect," said trainer Teddy Atlas. "Many of [Golota's] low punches were square-on, which are exactly the type of punches that cup is meant to protect."

When Bowe was struck low late in the seventh round, referee Wayne Kelly (USA), who had previously deducted three points from Golota for punching below the belt, waved the bout over and declared "Big Daddy," who was writhing on the canvas, the winner by disqualification. But that's the end of the story—and the beginning of the mini-riot that was replayed on the evening news night after night, or until the opening of the Olympics. Let's go back to the beginning.

In this case, the beginning was 5 p.m. the day before the fight. At an HBO production meeting attended by both camps, Rock Newman, the bout's promoter, informed Team Golota that the contest would be scheduled for 12 rounds, and not 10. (The contract hadn't been specific in that regard.) Despite the fact that an extra six minutes of action figured to benefit the

WHAT A RIOT!

The last time Spike Lee had been involved in a riot, he was seated in a director's chair, and when he yelled "cut!", the violence stopped all at once. That was during the climactic scene in *Do The Right Thing*.

Unfortunately, the climactic scene at Madison Square Garden on July 11 was unrelated to the magic of the movies. After Andrew Golota was disqualified for fouling Riddick Bowe, Lee and many among the crowd of 11,251 found themselves doing the *real* thing. Promoter/manager Rock Newman and some of the members of Bowe's entourage rushed the ring, precipitating a rash of chair-throwing and fistfighting both in and out of the squared circle, much of it captured by the cameras of HBO, which aired the bout live.

"I was in the first row, behind Golota's corner," Lee told THE RING. "Gerry Cooney was sitting behind me. When it first started, I was seeing s___ in slow motion. People were coming out of the stands; it was just ugly. I wasn't worried at first. I was kinda just frozen. But when my wife saw Cooney, who's 6'6", leaving, she dragged me outta there."

Those who stayed saw a 25-minute mini-riot that resulted in 14 arrests and 22 minor injuries, eight of which were suffered by police officers. It all started in the seventh round, after referee Wayne Kelly DQ'd Golota for repeatedly punching low. With Bowe crumpled in his corner, Newman and entourage members Jason Harris and Bernard Brooks Sr. climbed through the ropes and rushed toward Golota's corner. After Brooks shoved Golota, the Polish heavyweight felled him with a left hand. Harris then struck Golota over the head with a black mobile phone, opening up a 13-stitch cut on the back of the fighter's head. One day later, Harris was arrested and charged with assault and reckless endangerment. Stephen Bowe, Riddick's cousin, was also among those arrested.

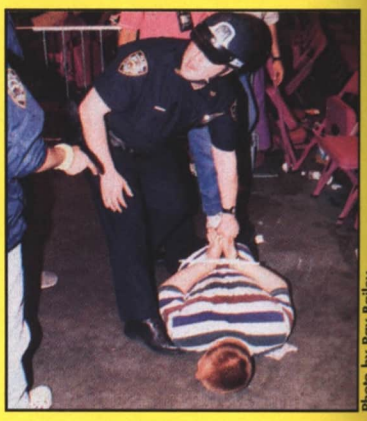


Photo by Ray Bailey

In all, 14 arrests were made

"I'd like to meet him on the street right here, right now—a *real* fight," the *New York Post* quoted Golota as saying of Harris.

Seconds later, Lou Duva, who trains Golota, entered the ring "to pull my fighter away." Earlier in the fight, Duva, 74, had relinquished his role as chief cornerman after his implanted cardiac stimulator had failed him. Duva was pushed to the canvas, where he lay flat, and later removed from the ring by stretcher. He was hospitalized as a precautionary measure and released the next day.

While most fingers of blame were pointed at Newman, who promoted the bout, and Bowe's supporters, the Garden's security was grossly ineffective. A standard staff of 76 uniformed guards worked the fight card, and 18 New York City police officers were assigned duty outside the arena. Order wasn't fully restored until 150 additional police officers were called in.

At a press conference the day after the bout, MSG President Dave Checketts said the Garden would remain committed to boxing, and after reviewing security procedures, would continue to host major bouts. Said New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, "From now on, we will not rely upon notification from private security people. We will have our own police officers there."

As we went to press, Bowe's purse of $5-million was being held by the New York State Athletic Commission until an investigation could be completed.

As for the likelihood of a return bout, Main Events' Dino Duva, who promotes Golota, said, "Right now we're not even thinking about a rematch. I still have a sick feeling about what happened the other night."

-SF

Photo by Ray Bailey

People and punches were flying everywhere

Photo by Roy Bailey

presumably better-conditioned underdog, Golota went bonkers. Insisting he had trained for the shorter distance, he initially refused to accept the terms and relented only when his purse was increased by $50,000. Still, up to a few hours before the fight, his handlers weren't sure Golota would climb through the ropes.

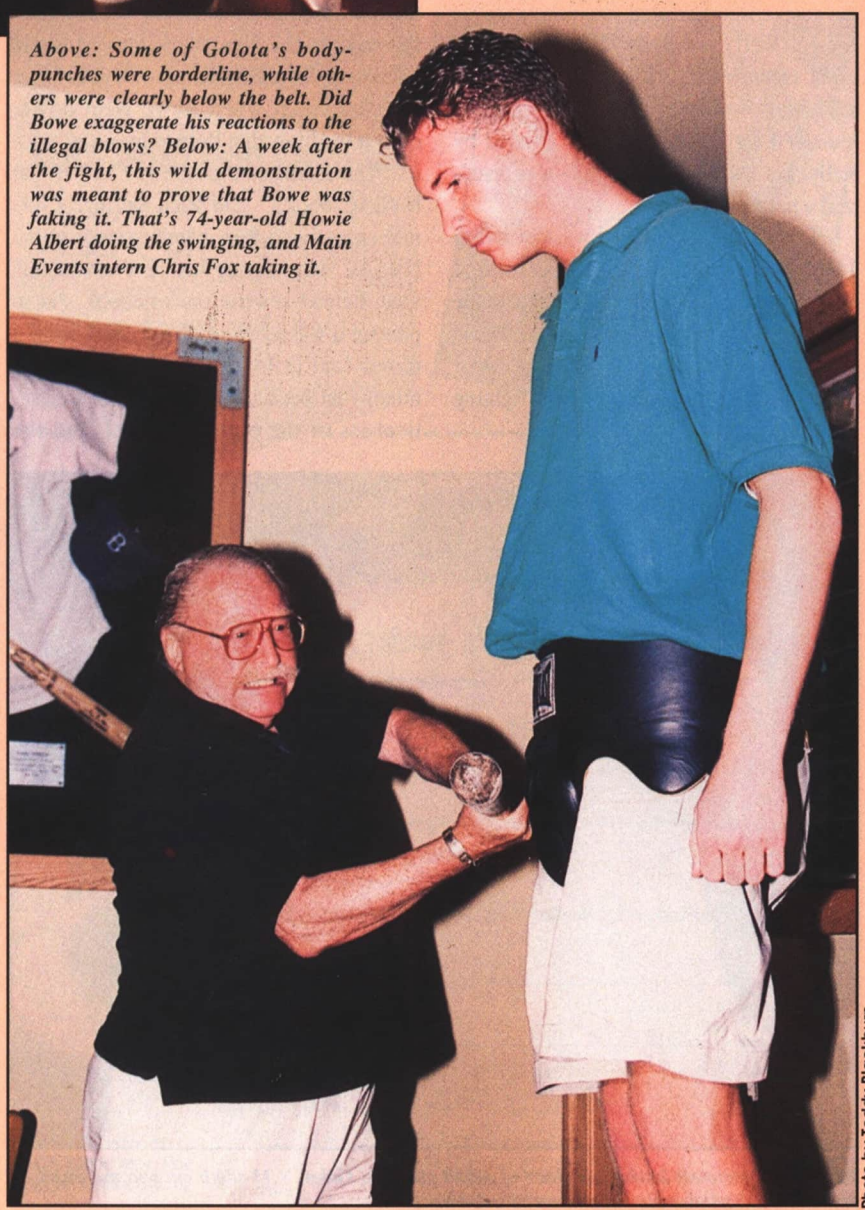
"If this fight had been in Vegas," said a source who witnessed Golota's reaction, "I would've bet a bundle on Bowe. Golota was a nervous wreck."

About 45 minutes before the fight, there were no signs of nerves in Golota's dressing room. Nor were there any signs of life. The heavyweight and his handlers sat sullenly and motionless, as if in mourning. Even trainer Lou Duva was quiet. Making a huge jump in class, Golota hardly seemed poised to deliver a career-best performance. Go figure.

From the opening bell, Golota, 243, Chicago, Illinois, via Warsaw, Poland, outfought Bowe, a career-high 252, Fort Washington, Maryland, via Brooklyn, New York. Having been labeled an easy-to-hit plodder, Golota hardly resembled the typical European heavyweight. He neatly slipped punches, bent at the waist, and deftly escaped whenever cornered. The improvement from his previous effort, a career-best kayo of Danell Nicholson, was astounding. Credit must go to Duva, who is acknowledged as a motivator, but underrated as a teacher, and assistant Roger Bloodworth.

Golota, 28-1 (25), won the first round, and in doing so, established two things: He was going to outjab Bowe, and whenever he was hit with one or two shots, he would respond with three or four of his own. The 6'4" giant opened by quickly changing angles and sticking Bowe, 39-1 (32), with lefts. It seemed like a sound strategy against a superior infighter, but in round two, Golota reverted to a slugger's approach, probably because he was finding Bowe so easy to hit.

Oh, yeah, let's not forget those low blows. In round one, Golota landed three bodypunches that were borderline. After the second and third shots, Kelly issued his first warning. In round two, three of Golota's punches were clearly low, and the referee warned him for a second time.



Above: Some of Golota's bodypunches were borderline, while others were clearly below the belt. Did Bowe exaggerate his reactions to the illegal blows? Below: A week after the fight, this wild demonstration was meant to prove that Bowe was faking it. That's 74-year-old Howie Albert doing the swinging, and Main Events intern Chris Fox taking it.

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

In the third, as portions of the crowd chanted "USA!", Golota rallied over the second half of the round and connected with a right-hook combination with 10 seconds remaining. He landed one borderline bodypunch, then, later in the round, a left that was definitely low. Kelly intervened and admonished Golota. "Next time," he said, "it's a point."

The real controversy came in the fourth. It was an exciting and fast-paced round, Golota's best of the fight. Halfway through, he snapped back Bowe's head with a hook, and shortly after, a right drove the former world champion to his own corner. It might have been a 10-8 round, but ... Early on, Golota's left-right to the body drew a "keep 'em up" from Kelly. That was followed by a low left, and then a left-right that was questionable. Again, Kelly warned, "Keep 'em up." Eight seconds later, Golota drove in a low left, and Bowe fell to the canvas, where he remained for the five minutes allotted by Kelly. For the first time, Golota was penalized a point.

"I think [the low blows] weakened him a lot," Eddie Futch, Bowe's trainer, said of his fighter. "They weren't just below the beltline, they were in vital spots. Those shots affect your legs and take away your strength. I give Riddick credit for fighting over those things."

Photo by Mary Lynn McDavid

Among the unforgettable postfight images of July 11: trainer Lou Duva being carried from the ring by stretcher. Fortunately, Captain Lou turned out to be okay.

Among the issues overshadowed by the postfight melee was Kelly's handling of the fourth-round knockdown. According to the rules of the New York State Athletic Commission, the third man should have issued a count when Bowe went down, even if the blow that floored him was low.

"The intent of the rule [212.13 in the NYSAC book]," said Rich Hering, a former executive deputy commissioner of the NYSAC who, during his 12 years of service, helped rewrite the rulebook, "is to prevent a fighter from going down from a minor foul [a low blow is considered a minor foul because of the presumed effectiveness of the protective cup], and the other fighter winning by disqualification. The fighter on the floor has to rise by the count of 10. Then the referee can give him up to five minutes to recuperate."

Had Kelly counted Bowe out in the fourth, added Hering, he would have had the option of, in turn, disqualifying Golota for committing a flagrant foul—had the referee judged the punch to be as such. In that case, the final result would have been a no-contest. If you're confused, you're not alone.

Given the aforementioned interpretation of the rules, Team Golota officially protested the result of the bout for the wrong reason. (As it turned out, the NYSAC rejected the protest anyway.) Dino Duva based his protest on the rule that a low blow is not to result in the termination of a bout. Kelly indeed DQ'd Golota for punching low, but he just as easily could have disqualified him for repeatedly ignoring the referee's warnings; that would have been sufficient grounds. Instead of focusing on the fight-ending low blow in round seven, Duva should have protested Kelly's failure to issue a count in round four.

(Before interviewing Hering, THE RING spoke to the NYSAC. A representative read the relevant passages from the rulebook, but was reluctant to offer interpretation. Hering, who is now a consultant for Titan Sports, told us that on the night of the fight he spoke to the NYSAC for "a couple of hours" in an effort to explain the rules in question.)

Back to the fight: The fifth was relatively foul-free, with Golota landing one

(Continued on page 55)

Photo by Stefan Pietroszek

While Bowe certainly landed his share of rabbit punches, Golota's 13-stitch cut was the result of Jason Harris' cellular phone, and not "Big Daddy's" fists.

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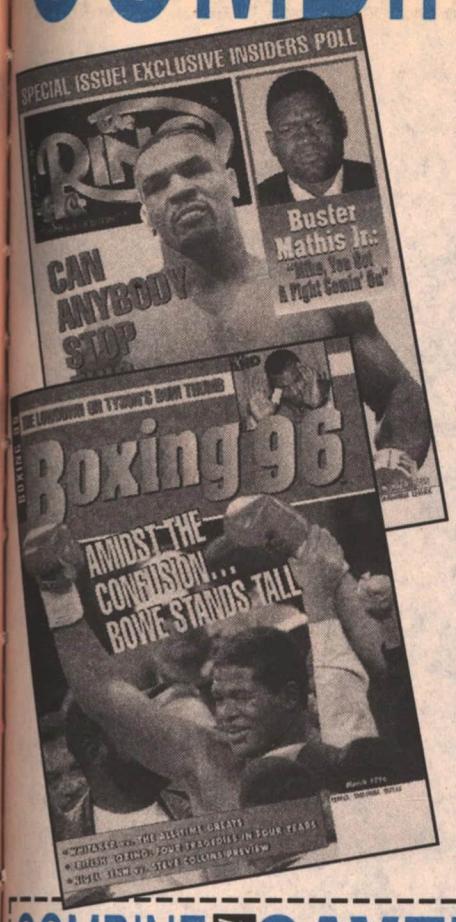

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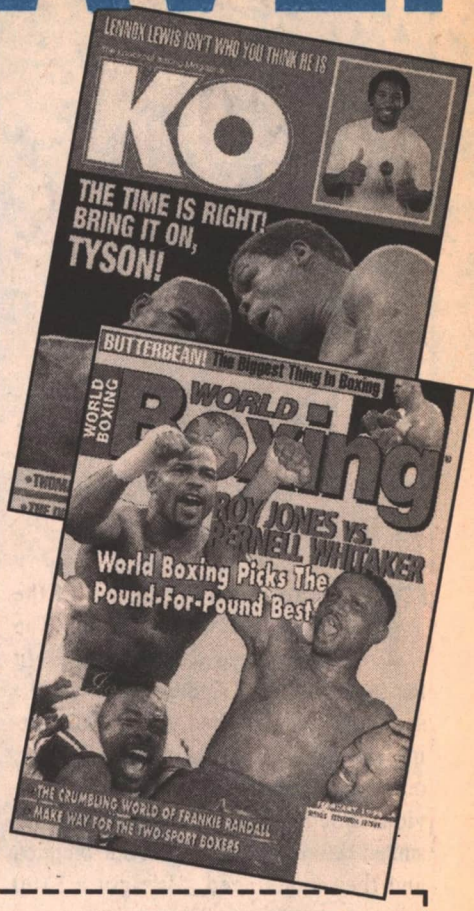

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Photo by Mary Lynn McDavid

THE BLINKY PALERMO STORY

"He couldn't resist a candy bar. He'd walk into a place and walk out with a candy bar. Only he never paid for them."

–Al Braverman

When Gangsters Ran Boxing

By Robert Cassidy

There are several chapters of the Veteran Boxers Association. The organization is designed to benefit the many indigent fighters who left the sport broke and battered. At a 1990 meeting of Ring 8, New York City's chapter, one of the officers began to review the previous month's business transactions. He smiled before addressing his fistic brethren and then announced, "We got a $100 donation from Blinky Palermo."

The room erupted in laughter.

What sounded like a hilarious joke was true. And when the laughter finally subsided, Coley Wallace, a heavyweight who had been managed by Palermo, silently shook his head in disgust. As far as Wallace was concerned, Palermo was still thousands of dollars behind in making restitution.

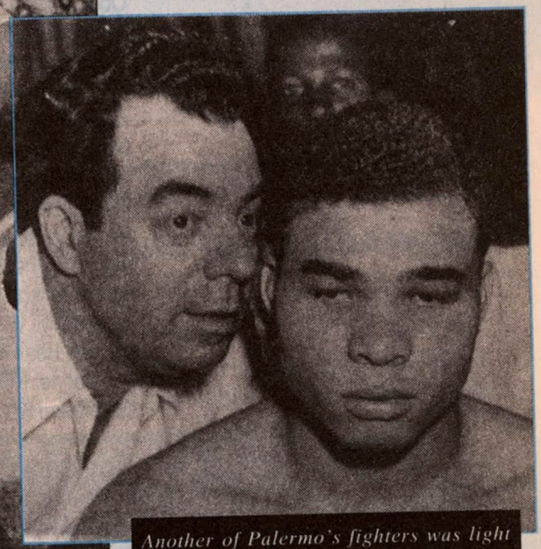
Frank Palermo was known in the boxing media as "Blinky." To those in his South Philadelphia neighborhood, he was "Uncle Frank." His friends made sure to call him Frank because he detested the moniker issued to him by the press. It has been written that Palermo was given his nickname because of an eye affliction. Others have suggested it was because he could not look anyone in the eye.

Palermo arrives in court after a grand jury indicted him for extortion and racketeering. He served eight years in prison.

"I get angry when I think about Blinky Palermo. He could have done better by me. He ruined boxing for me."

–Coley Wallace

Palermo visits the training camp of lightweight champion Ike Williams, whom he managed. Palermo twice cheated Williams out of purses of more than $30,000.



Another of Palermo's fighters was light heavyweight Billy Fox. In order to secure a long-awaited try at the middleweight title, Jake LaMotta threw his 1947 bout vs. Fox.

During most of the '40s and '50s, Palermo ran boxing along with powerful gangster Frankie Carbo (left). It took a Senate investigation of boxing to loosen their grip.

Regardless of how he was referred to, Palermo's name was synonymous with evil. He is remembered for fixing fights, skimming purses, and using intimidation and violence to achieve his goals. Palermo was a major player at a time when organized crime controlled the boxing world. In May, he died in a Philadelphia hospital bed at the age of 91.

Despite the fact that Palermo was a gangster's gangster—he was proclaimed the numbers king of Philadelphia in some newspaper accounts—he once had legitimate licenses to manage fighters in New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Maryland, California, and Florida. Among the high-profile fighters Palermo controlled were lightweight champion Ike Williams, welterweight champion Johnny Saxton, heavyweight Wallace, light heavyweight Billy Fox, and welterweight Gil Turner. He was also the behind-the-scenes manager of heavyweight champion Sonny Liston.

It is favorable to sanitize a man's life upon his death. In the case of Palermo, it

(Continued on page 61)

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Michael Moorer W 12 Axel Schulz
(Regains Vacant IBF Title)
Riddick Bowe W Disq. 7 Andrew Golota
Henry Akinwande KO 3 Jeremy Williams
Herbie Hide KO 6 Michael Murray
Louis Monaco KO 5 Peter McNeeley
Peter McNeeley KO 1 Marc Machain
Buster Douglas KO 3 Tony LaRosa
Larry Holmes KO 8 Anthony Willis
Tony Tucker KO 1 Dave Dixon
Obed Sullivan KO 4 Bradley Rone
John Ruiz KO 6 Doug Davis
Scott Welch KO 1 Mike Sedillo
Kirk Johnson KO 1 Darren Hayden
Zeljko Mavrovic KO 7 Mark Wills
Marcos Gonzalez KO 2 Peter Smith
Yosukezan Nishijima W 10 Wimpy Halstead
Iran Barkley W 8 Brian Yates
Marion Wilson KO 1 Thomas Williams
Alonzo Highsmith KO 2 Andy Levinsohn
James Pritchard KO 4 Greg Suttington
James Tillis W 8 Craig Payne
Vaughn Bean KO 6 Ron McCarthy
Joe Bugner KO 5 Young Haumono
Butterbean KO 4 William Harris

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Marcelo Dominguez KO 10 Patrick Aouissi
(Retains WBC Title)
James Toney W 10 Charles Oliver
Ralf Rocchigiani W 12 Bash Ali
Andrew Fortune Tech. Win 4 Andrew Maynard
Saul Montana KO 4 Jimmy Bills

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Mike McCallum W 10 Saidi Ali
Montell Griffin KO 11 Mathew Charleston
Merqui Sosa KO 4 Karl Willis
William Guthrie KO 6 Ramzi Hassan
Eddy Smulders KO 2 Dirk Wallyn
Rocky Gannon KO 10 Richard Hall
Richard Frazier KO 6 Anthony Hembrick
Leonardo Aguilar KO 4 Victor Cordoba
Ole Klemetsen KO 1 Luan Morena
Dean Francis KO 8 John Marceta
Ron Essett W 10 Reggie Strickland

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Vincenzo Nardiello W 12 Sugarboy Malinga
(Wins WBC Title)
Roy Jones KO 11 Eric Lucas
(Retains IBF Title)
Steve Collins KO 4 Nigel Benn
Michael Nunn KO 8 Everardo Armenta
Henry Wharton W 10 Stephane Nizard
Ravea Springs KO 1 James Stokes
Kenny Snow KO 5 Ravea Springs
Frederic Seillier W 12 Mauro Galvano
Antoine Byrd KO 7 Jerome Hill

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Bernard Hopkins KO 11 Bo James
(Retains IBF Title)
William Joppy KO 9 Shinji Takehara
(Wins WBA Title)
John David Jackson W 10 Augustin Renteria
Hector Camacho W 12 Roberto Duran
Otis Grant W 12 Rodney Toney
Peter Venancio W 10 Verno Phillips
Lloyd Bryan W 10 Curtis Mombelly
Buddy McGirt W 10 Alan Watts
Gianfranco Rosi W 8 Milko Stoikov
Alexander Zaitsev KO 10 Agostino Cardamone
Stephane Oullette KO 8 Alex Hilton

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Hector Camacho KO 2 Craig Houck
Laurent Boudouani KO 3 Victor Fessetchenko
Laurent Boudouani KO 5 Aquino Ramirez
Anthony Stephens W 10 Aaron Davis
Simon Brown W 10 Glenwood Brown
Steve Foster W 12 Chris Pyatt
Tiger Jones KO 7 Tommy Small
Anthony Ivory KO 7 Arthur Allen
Rene Herrera W 10 Eric Holland
Tarick Salmaci KO 1 Marcel Huffaker
Juan Negron KO 1 Jeff Passero

WELTERWEIGHTS
Patrick Charpentier KO 7 Gary Jacobs
James Page KO 3 Rocky Balboa
Vincent Pettway W 10 Benji Singleton
Vince Phillips KO 3 Jerry Smith
Jose Luis Navarro KO 3 David Salguera
Dingaan Thobela KO 6 Wayne Boudreaux
Santiago Samaniego KO 1 Eder Gonzalez
John Bizzarro W 12 Roland Commings
Marco A. Lizarraga W 12 Cirilo Nino
Ken Sigurani KO 9 Bobby Elkins
Samuel Serrano W 10 Samuel Mejias

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Miguel Angel Gonzalez KO 4 Samuel Kamau
Charles Murray KO 7 Jake Rodriguez
Giovanni Parisi D 12 Bolillo Gonzalez
Rafael Ruelas KO 2 Michael Walsh

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Steve Johnston KO 2 Julian Romero

Angel Mona KO 4 Rimvidas Billus
Marty Jakubowski KO 10 Curtis Strong
Demetrio Ceballos KO 5 Jesus Rodriguez
Tiger Martinez KO 1 Ramon Cruz

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Arturo Gatti KO 3 Feliciano Correa
(Non-Title Bout)
Robert Garcia KO 3 Jose Luis Madrid
Carlos Hernandez KO 12 Little Guns Pumar
P.J. Gallagher W 12 Charles Shepherd

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Luisito Espinosa W 12 Cesar Soto
(Retains WBC Title)
Wayne McCullough W 10 Julio Cesar Cardona
(Non-Title Bout)
Kevin Kelley KO 8 Derrick Gainer
Welcome Ncita W 8 Mike Deveney
Juan Manuel Marquez W 10 Freddy Cruz
Yuji Watanabe Tech. Dec. 5 Do Yul Lee
November Ntshingila KO 7 Ericel Nucamendi
Billy Hardy W 12 Stefano Zoff
Duke McKenzie KO 1 Elvis Parsley

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Marco Antonio Barrera KO 7 Orlando Fernandez
Polo Saucedo W 10 Javier Diaz
Jesus Salud KO 4 Michael Galatti
Nestor Garza KO 4 Roland Gomez
Aristead Clayton W 10 Roberto Romero
Daniel Jimenez W 12 Pedro Rodriguez
Angel Chacon KO 9 Runnell Doll

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Mbulelo Botile KO 9 Marlon Bong Arlos
(Retains IBF Title)
Jesus Sarabia W 12 Cuauhtemoc Gomez
Gerardo Martinez KO 6 Cruz Carbajal

FLYWEIGHTS
Michael Carbajal KO 1 Manuel Sarabia
(Non-Title Bout)
Isaias Zamudio KO 3 Jose Quirino
Peter Culshaw KO 3 Daniel Ward
Sammy Stewart KO 6 Edgar Decena
Scotty Olson D 12 Rudy Idanio

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Melchor Cob Castro KO 2 Dionisio May
Jack Russell W 12 Alistair Robertson

STRAWWEIGHTS
Ricardo Lopez KO 3 Kittichai Preecha
(Retains WBC Title)
Rosendo Alvarez W 12 Eric Chavez
(Retains WBA Title)

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FIGHTER of the MONTH

Campaigning in a division that has been dominated by the likes of Nigel Benn and Roy Jones, WBA super middleweight champion Frankie Liles has reluctantly played the role of invisible man. Liles was an excellent amateur—he scored a win over Jones—and has been a good pro, defeating the likes of Merqui Sosa and Michael Nunn. But he's stuck on Don King's undercards, and as long as the headliners are named Tyson, Trinidad, and Norris, he'll likely remain a supporting player.

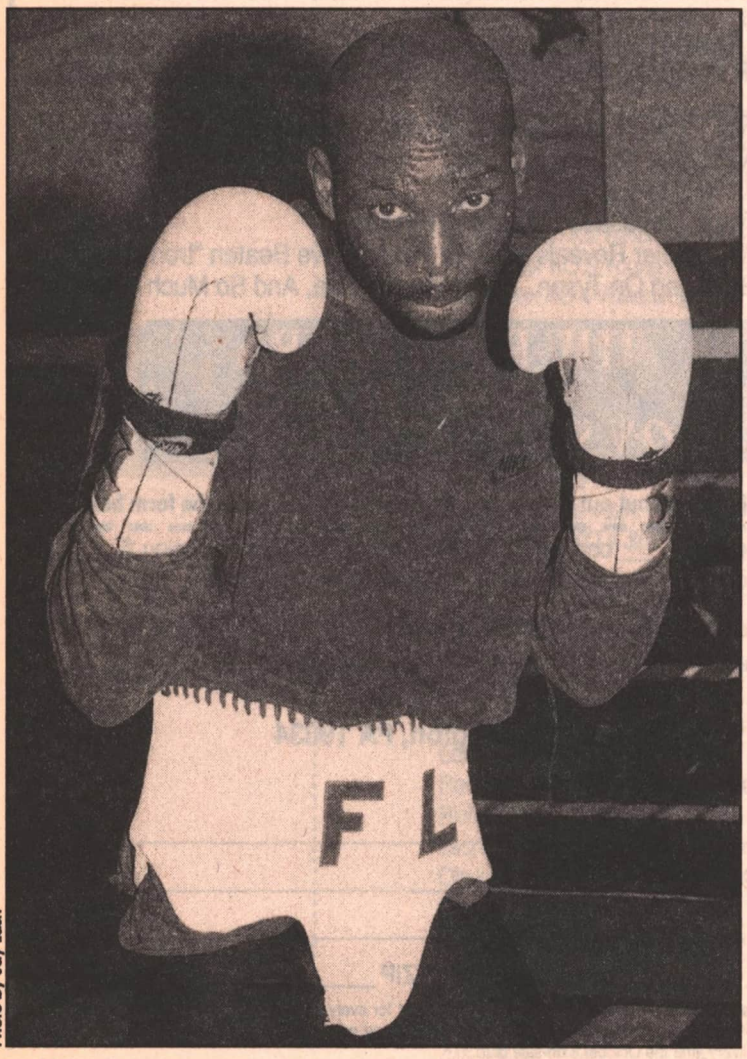

Photo by Jay Lash

In June, Liles provided the type of thrills that could begin to change his status. Defending against Tim Littles, his longtime amateur rival and the only fighter to have beaten him as a pro, Liles rose from the canvas and won a thrill-a-second shootout. As wild as it was, the bout, held in Newcastle, England, upstaged the off-the-floor kayo victory of British sensation Naseem Hamed.

Liles is rarely mentioned as an opponent for the competition-starved Jones. Here's to hoping that changes soon. A unification bout just might be a better matchup than you believe, especially since it's pretty tough to hit an invisible man.

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Frankie Liles

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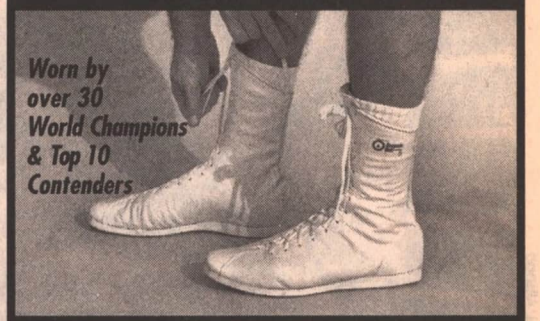

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RINGSIDE REPORTS

Michael Moorer W 12 Axel Schulz

Dortmund, Germany: Utilizing an effective right jab and producing the sharper and superior work, Moorer outpointed Schulz to regain the vacant IBF heavyweight title by split decision at a chilly Westfalenstadion.

The title became vacant when the IBF stripped Frans Botha, who tested positive for steroids after outpointing Schulz last December. It has been mandated that Moorer make his first defense against Botha within 120 days. The bout is likely to take place in October.

Never threatening to set the division alight with his performance, the 28-year-old Moorer, 224¼, Boca Raton, Florida, did what he had to do to win. But there were times in this bout, as in his previous title-winning effort vs. Evander Holyfield, when he seemed to lose the plot, and only the heated interventions of his trainer, Teddy Atlas, put him back on the rails.

Schulz, 222¾, Bad Saarow, Germany, was lively throughout, but many of his punches were taken on Moorer's arms and gloves. He had his moments, but could not sustain the effort, and though Moorer's occasional lapses handed the German the initiative, he had little ground for argument with the verdict.

Schulz, 27, seemed tense before his third attempt to lift a world title, and the first round was Moorer's with minimal fuss. A higher work rate in the second shaded the round for Schulz, who took the third as well by landing a right-left-right at the bell. Atlas gave Moorer a stern talking-to during the break, and his charge responded, claiming the next three rounds. He drove a hard left through Schulz' guard in the fourth, and his jab became more aggressive. In the fifth, he followed a left with a solid right and three snappy jabs as the signs became ominous for the home fighter. Schulz' punches were having no effect on the American, who was now setting about his work with total confidence.

Photo by John Gichigi/Allsport

Schulz stepped on Moorer, but failed to step up

Moorer, 37-1 (30), inexplicably dropped the pace in the seventh, allowing Schulz a lifeline into the fight. The German took full advantage, pumping in a three-punch combination and a right that shook Moorer. Another right at the bell had the 25,000-strong crowd believing Schulz, 21-3-1 (10) with 1 no-decision, was about to mount a rally that would eventually claim him the title. But Moorer retaliated in the eighth, mixing lefts to the body with uppercuts to the head. Two hard rights exploded off the German's jaw in the final half-minute of the ninth, but again Moorer backed off in the 10th, costing him the round and incurring the wrath of Atlas.

Perhaps enjoying the benefits of a second wind, Moorer rallied in the 11th, almost dropping Schulz with a right. Both fighters swung in the last round, but Schulz more so in desperation. Moorer's punches had greater accuracy and authority.

At the final bell, Schulz threw his arms in the air, but it was wishful thinking. Dave Parris (England) and John Stewart (USA) scored for Moorer by 116-113 and 115-113, respectively, while Walter Cavaliere (Italy) handed in an outrageous card of 115-113 for Schulz. THE RING had it 116-112 for Moorer.

Promoters: Wilfried Sauerland and Cedric Kushner, in association with RTL

(6-22-96)

Brian Doogan

Roy Jones KO 11 Eric Lucas

Jacksonville, Florida: Defending the IBF super middleweight title only hours after playing 14 minutes for the Jacksonville Barracudas of the United States Basketball League, Jones failed to slam-dunk Lucas, but still managed to retain the crown for the fourth time. The second half of his most unusual doubleheader came at the Jacksonville Coliseum.

The 27-year-old Jones is considered the best fighter, pound-for-pound, in the world. As a result, he was roundly criticized for defending against Canada's unaccomplished Lucas, 25, who had suffered recent one-sided losses to Bryant Brannon and Fabrice Tiozzo.

"I've started creating challenges for myself," explained Jones. "Normally, I would've looked terrible against this guy because he's a durable guy. I would've run out of things to do, my mind wouldn't have been sharp, and this would've been a horrible night for me."

How good a night it was is debatable. Jones, 166, Pensacola, Florida, was never threatened, largely because Lucas, 165¾, Montreal, threw only 306 punches, or about 25 per round. In fact, the challenger landed a total of only 90 punches. What Lucas does well is last the distance, and he came within three minutes of accomplishing that.

Jones, 32-0 (28), started carefully. He didn't open up until the fourth, when he backed to a corner, waved Lucas in, and then exploded with a blinding flurry. It was Lucas who opened up in the sixth, but he was ineffective. Jones boxed from a southpaw stance in the eighth, and landed four consecutive hooks in the ninth. As the bout progressed, it seemed apparent that he was eager to score a stoppage.

Lucas, 19-3-2 (5), bled from the nose in the 10th, during which all 83 of Jones' blows were powerpunches. The challenger began backtracking in the 11th, prompting Jones to turn left-handed and deliver several accurate combinations. One of his punches opened a long cut on Lucas' right eyelid, and no one protested when the bout was halted before the start of the 12th.

The judges were Ric Bays (USA), Harry Davis (Canada), and Al Rothenberg (USA). The referee was Brian Garry (USA).

It's anticipated that Jones will next defend against either Brannon or Charles Brewer. He was hoping to immediately follow that with a challenge of WBA light heavyweight champion Virgil Hill, but no one, including Hill, HBO, and the major state commissions, thought such a doubleheader to be a very good idea. Hill will instead face IBF 175-pound champion Henry Maske in a unification bout.

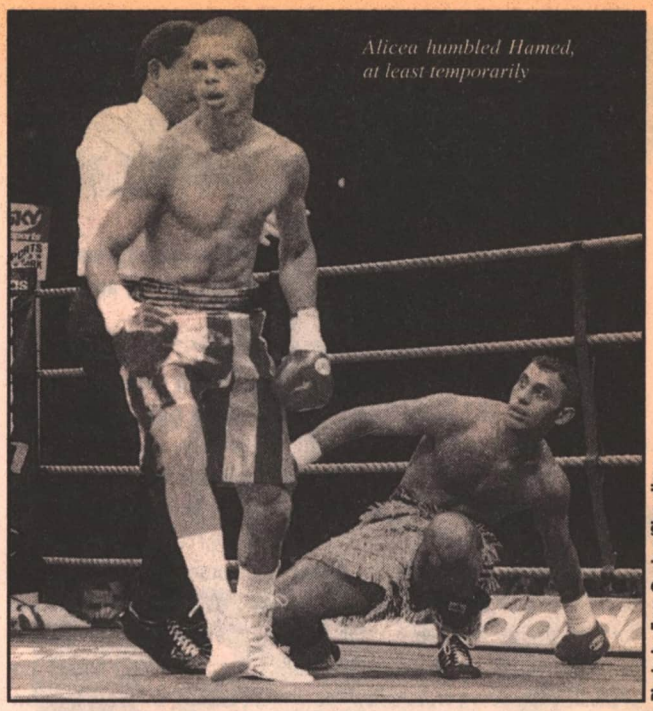
Promoter: Square Ring

(6-15-96)

Naseem Hamed KO 2 Daniel Alicea

Newcastle, England: After being carried to the ring on a sedan, sensational featherweight Hamed suffered the indignity of a first-round knockdown before rebounding to stop "Pipino" Alicea at the Newcastle Arena.

Those who have questioned whether the 22-year-old Hamed, 125¾, Sheffield, England, can mix it up with top-class opponents will consider themselves to have been vindicated by the first knockdown of "The Prince's" pro career. Two solid rights delivered by the 23-year-old Alicea, 125¾, Santurce, Puerto Rico, landed on Hamed's jaw before a third drove him to the canvas. Though Hamed was up quickly and showed no signs of being dazed, he was certainly shocked by the experience. For the remainder of the round, he hopped on his bike and tried to remain out of Alicea's range as much as he could.



Alicea humbled Hamed, at least temporarily

Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

Hamed returned to the teeth of the fire in the second and nailed Alicea first with a right hand that knocked him over, and then with a pinpoint three-punch combination that forced referee Raul Caiz (USA) to intervene at the 2:46 mark with Alicea flat on his back.

"All the great fighters have been knocked down—Ali, Leonard, Robinson—they've all been put on their bum," contended Hamed. "I'm human like everybody else. But I showed I can take it and come back, and in the second I made sure that he wasn't going to stick around."

Alicea, 15-1 (13), began brightly, maintaining a tight guard and thrusting out straight punches that were ominously either finding or getting very near to the target. Hamed's reflexes seemed unusually rusty, due perhaps to a recent and lengthy absence from the ring caused by hand problems. A solid left hurt Hamed, 23-0 (22), and a series of one-twos further grabbed his attention. Then Alicea landed the rights that resulted in Hamed's embarrassing moment, which came with 35 seconds remaining in the round.

In the second, Hamed moved in to punish his man, and when he scored with a lead right for the second time, it had a shattering effect. Alicea's legs froze, and he fell almost in slow motion. He wobbled into a neutral corner, and Hamed's fists erupted. The Prince was overanxious, with the majority of his punches missing. But a left hook-cum-uppercut, followed by a right and left uppercut, send Alicea crashing. Caiz didn't bother to count.

The judges were Rafael Lopez (Mexico), Victor Salomon (Mexico), and Guiseppe Todaro (Italy).

Frank Warren hopes to set up a fight between Hamed and WBA junior featherweight champion Vuyani Bungu; the day after the Alicea bout, the promoter flew to Nelson Mandela's home to discuss the possibility with the South African president and some businessmen.

(6-8-96)

Brian Doogan

Frankie Liles KO 3 Tim Littles

Newcastle, England: In a wild eight-minute affair that saw both fighters throw enough lethal punches to fill 12 rounds, WBA super middleweight champion Liles retained the title for the fourth time. The slugfest, held at Newcastle Arena, provided Liles with sweet revenge for the only professional setback of his career; in July 1992, Littles outpointed Liles over 12 rounds.

"Maybe a fight of this intensity will get me the exposure I feel I'm due," said Liles, 31. "It was a heck of a battle, and I came charging through."

In the first round, the southpaw Liles, 167¼, Los Angeles, California, pumped out a swift counter hook that rammed over the jab of Littles, 167, Flint, Michigan. A vicious right uppercut left the mandatory challenger hanging on grimly, and a hook and straight left put him down for a seven-count. Littles was extremely groggy when he got back to his feet, but the bell came to his rescue—sounding 60 seconds early!

Despite his early troubles, Littles, 31, came out for the second round just as intent on scoring a knockout. A right put Liles in all sorts of trouble, but many of the challenger's power-packed punches were coming up short of the mark. Liles, 29-1 (18) with 1 no-contest, went down from a low blow, with Littles, 27-2 (18), escaping anything further than a warning from referee Mitch Halpern (USA). A cut on Littles' left eye required close examination by the ringside doctor, and when the action resumed, hard punches were exchanged before several rights landed on the back of the champion's head. Halpern subsequently penalized Littles a point.

Littles came storming back, but his rash attack left him open to a counter hook, a left, and another right that sent him again sprawling to the boards. The bell intervened, but the minute's respite failed to disrupt the fierceness of the fight. A number of rights crashed into the side of Liles' head early in the third, and he was driven through the ropes in his own corner. His eyes were clear, though, when he regained his feet. Still, he held on desperately. Littles caught him with a stiff hook before the final hook was delivered by Liles. Up at seven, the challenger lost control of his legs, prompting Halpern's stoppage at the 2:58 mark.

The judges were Osvaldo Sanchez (Venezuela), Duane Ford (USA), and Luis Rivera (Puerto Rico).

"It was like a brick," Liles said of the kayo punch. "Anybody I hit like that, I step over them."

In addition to their previous pro encounter, these combatants faced each other three times as amateurs, with Liles winning each bout.

Promoters: Don King, Frank Warren

(6-8-96)

Brian Doogan

Ricardo Lopez KO 3 Kittichai Preecha

Indio, California: The problem with WBC strawweight champion Lopez may be that he has no problems. Fighting at 105 pounds, boxing's longest-reigning champion never seems to encounter anyone with the ability to really test him. That didn't change when the pound-for-pound entrant made his 16th defense, meeting Preecha at Fantasy Springs Casino.

To his credit, the 21-year-old Preecha, 104, Nakhon Si Thamarat, Thailand, came out throwing combinations. And he refused to turn tail after tasting the champion's power. But taking the offensive against the savvy Lopez, 105, Mexico City, Mexico, can lead to an early night, and that's how it turned out for Preecha, who had gotten off the plane from Thailand only three days before the fight. His flight took 18 hours.

Fight conditions were less than perfect. The thermometer read 121 degrees shortly before the bout, which was staged in an outdoor arena just east of Palm Springs. Showtime's sizzling TV lights assisted the sun in cooking both fighters like burgers on a grill.

Lopez, 28, mostly watched in the first round, assessing the game Preecha. The Mexican did enough, however, to win the round on all three cards. His best punch was a right uppercut just before the bell.

Lopez, 42-0 (32), was busier in the second, mixing well-timed punches to the body and head. Having entered his opponent's moves in his data bank, he took over. Preecha remained aggressive, and Lopez displayed his uncanny ability to land solid uppercuts while coming forward.

In the third, Preecha, a reported 18-3 (8), winced from a hook to the liver. Moments later, Lopez caught his weakened foe with a picture-perfect one-two, followed by a left uppercut that put the challenger on the canvas. Referee Dr. James Jen Kin (USA) took a good look at Preecha before waving it off at the 1:46 mark.

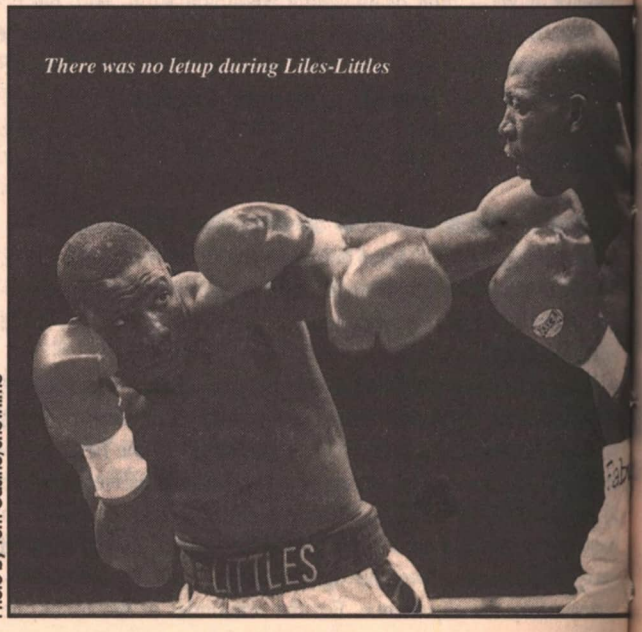
The judges were Barbara Perez, Jerry Roth, and Marty Denkin, all from the USA.

"The right cross was good, but the uppercut was really strong," Lopez said of his knockout punches.

Because Lopez evidently has little problem making weight, it may not be fair that he should have to fight bigger guys to earn fame and fortune. But who ever said life was fair? He should put on three more pounds of muscle and then look up junior flyweights like Michael Carbajal, Chiquita Gonzalez, and Saman Sorjaturong. Promoter Don King mentioned a Lopez-Carbajal battle, possibly in January 1997.

(6-29-96)

Ivan G. Goldman



There was no letup during Liles-Littles

Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

William Joppy KO 9 Shinji Takehara

Yokohama, Japan: Unbeaten speedster Joppy captured the WBA middleweight title, dropping Takehara in the opening round, outboxing him throughout, and halting him with a flurry at 2:29 of the ninth round at Yokohama Arena. It was Takehara's first defense.

The 24-year-old Takehara, 160, Japan, had been impressive in dethroning Jorge Castro last December, but in this bout he resembled an amateur, wildly swinging and missing. Joppy, 160, Takoma Park, Maryland, opened with a wicked overhand right that sent the champion to his knees. Takehara, who enjoyed a five-inch height advantage, stalked the quicker Joppy all the way, only to absorb sharp jabs and left-rights. Joppy, 25, circled from the fourth round to the finish, and Takehara failed to catch him.

In the fifth, Joppy, 22-0-1 (18), pinned Takehara, 24-1 (18), to the ropes and let loose with a barrage that nearly resulted in a stoppage. Takehara remained aggressive and took the sixth and seventh. Joppy, however, was just waiting for the proper opening, and in the eighth, he cornered his foe and banged out the Japanese with furious combinations. Referee John Coyle (England) didn't hesitate in calling a halt.

This was the worst performance of Takehara's career. His strategy was baffling. Why didn't he attempt to capitalize on his superior height and reach? He seldom threw jabs or straight rights and displayed poor defensive skills.

After eight rounds, Joppy led on all three cards, with Hector Hernandez (Mexico) scoring 79-73, Waldemar Schmidt (Puerto Rico) 78-72, and Ove Ovesen (Denmark) 78-73.

Promoter: Oki Promotions
(6-24-96)
Joe Koizumi

Rosendo Alvarez W 12 Eric Chavez

Sendai, Japan: In a bout that didn't seem close, unbeaten WBA minimumweight champion Alvarez kept the title for the second time, defeating veteran southpaw Chavez by well-received majority decision at Sendai Municipal Gymnasium.

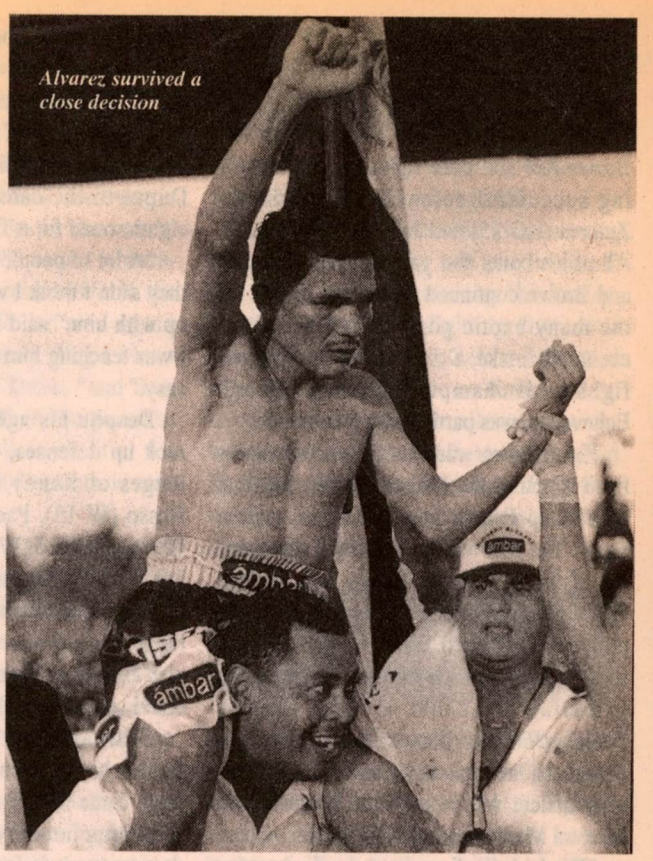
The 34-year-old Chavez, 104½, a Filipino based in Japan, now fights under the name of Kenta Sato. The former IBF champion started quickly, but the shorter Alvarez, 105, Nicaragua, quickly adjusted, steadily piling up points from the second round on. Chavez' power was evident only in round six, and he couldn't cope with the busier Alvarez' work rate.

Alvarez, 22-0 (14), suffered a gash on his right eyebrow in the fourth, but the cut didn't slow him down. The bout became monotonous in the middle rounds, with Alvarez, 26, doggedly pursuing Chavez, 36-12-5 (24). The champion, whose vaunted power never surfaced, had Chavez on the verge of a knockout in the 11th. The challenger's considerable experience, however, allowed him to survive.

Fernando Viso (Venezuela) scored 119-111, Robert Watson (USA) 115-113, and Aaron Kizer (USA) 114-114. THE RING saw it for Alvarez by 118-110. The referee was Tony Weeks (USA).

Alvarez, who didn't seem in particularly good shape, failed to make weight on his first try.

Promoter: Sendai Promotions
(6-15-96)
Joe Koizumi



Alvarez survived a close decision

Keiji Yamaguchi W 12 Carlos Murillo

Osaka, Japan: Stringbean southpaw Yamaguchi produced a major surprise, taking the WBA junior flyweight title by split decision after 12 gory rounds at Osaka Prefectural Gymnasium. It was Murillo's second defense.

Five inches taller than the champion, the 22-year-old Yamaguchi, 108, Japan, established his jab in the first round. Murillo, 107½, Panama, turned aggressive in the third, but from the fourth through the sixth, Yamaguchi regained control by capitalizing on his mobility and hand speed. In doing so, he bled steadily from the nose.

Murillo, 25, downed the challenger with a flurry to the body in the closing seconds of the seventh, and Yamaguchi responded by dropping the Panamanian with a combination in the eighth. Referee Armand Krief (France) inexplicably dismissed both knockdowns, ruling them slips.

After Yamaguchi, 19-1 (8), took the eighth, Murillo, 34-3 (28), overcoming a cut over his right eye, rallied over the last four rounds. He applied heavy pressure and pounded the Japanese's left eye until it was hideously swollen. As it turned out, his big finish wasn't enough. Bill Graham (USA) and Ferdinando Estrella (Philippines) scored for Yamaguchi by 116-113 and 115-114, respectively, while Enrique Portocarrero (Nicaragua) had Murillo in front by 116-112. There was a long delay and much confusion before the decision was announced.

As we went to press, it was anticipated that Yamaguchi and Murillo would meet in an immediate rematch.

Promoter: Green Tsuda Promotions
(5-22-96)
Joe Koizumi ■

Joe Brown

(Continued from page 37)

Brown had six more fights in '57, including successful defenses over Orlando Zulueta (KO 15) and Joey Lopes (KO 11). All of his bouts that year were on the road, and Brown continued his travels in '58. Of the many exotic ports of call he would eventually make, a trip to Cuba that year, to fight local champion Orlando "Baby" Echevarria, was particularly memorable.

Fidel Castro was less than a year away from toppling the Batista regime, but that didn't stop Batista from putting on quite a show. The non-title bout marked the opening of the new Sports Palace, and was the first fight televised live from an overseas point to the United States. Former heavyweight champion Joe Louis was among the gathering of 12,000, as were Carmen Basilio, Kid Gavilan, a flock of foreign diplomats, and practically every Cuban military officer who wasn't out in the Sierra Maestra Mountains fighting Castro.

"We had a police escort everywhere we went," recalled Brown. "I was just like a government official or something.

Havana was the hedonistic capital of the Caribbean in those days, a fact that didn't escape Brown's notice.

"I had women escorts, too," he said, laughing at the memory. "Yes, sir."

The fight itself turned out to be somewhat of an anticlimax; Brown knocked Echevarria cold in the opening round.

Even though Brown was treated like visiting royalty overseas, back home in Louisiana he was still a victim of racial prejudice and the accompanying Jim Crow laws. At the time, dancing master Ralph Dupas, another New Orleans native, had built a strong following with his slick style. Dupas was considered to have an excellent chance of out-speeding Old Bones and taking the title. The match was a natural for "The Crescent City," but was exiled to Houston; in 1958, it was illegal for blacks and whites to box each other in Louisiana.

It was an insulting situation for a man who had served his country so honorably during World War II. Fortunately, Brown had already fought several times in Houston and had built a fan base large enough to lure 9,932 paying customers to the Coliseum, setting a new state attendance record for boxing. Those who figured Dupas' speed would be too much for the 32-year-old champion were mistaken. Brown gave one of the finest performances of his career, sending the decade-younger Dupas to the canvas three times in the eighth round for a TKO victory.

"A lot of people were surprised because they didn't think I was fast enough to catch up with him," said Brown. "But it was like I was teaching him how to box. It was that easy."

Despite his age, Brown continued to rack up defenses, turning back the challenges of Kenny Lane (W 15), Johnny Busso (W 15), Paolo Rosi (KO 8), Dave Charnley (KO 5, W 15), Cisco Andrade (W 15), and Bert Somodio (W 15). Although he earned decent money for the time—his biggest purse was about $45,000—Brown also fought as many non-title bouts as he could squeeze into his busy schedule.

Still, age and his grueling itinerary finally began to take a toll, and Brown's reign came to an end in April '62, when he was outpointed by Carlos Ortiz over 15 dreary rounds in Las Vegas.

"I got tricked; that guy actually tricked me," said Brown, still seemingly angry with himself all these years later. "He'd run out of his corner and grab me, and I couldn't use any of my boxing skills. Then he would flurry. By the time I dragged my hands free, he would grab me again. It finally dawned on me that this guy was stealing the fight. He wasn't doing nothin' to me, wasn't causing no damage. He just made me look bad."

Although Brown never got a rematch, it was far from the end of his career. He fought on for nine more years, filling his well-worn passport with stamps from Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, Mexico, Jamaica, South Africa, Colombia, Spain, Finland, and England. All told, Brown boxed 40 times overseas, in 16 different countries.

"I traveled all over, everywhere. I was one of those guys who was truly a *world* champion," said Brown, a note of pride in his voice. "I enjoyed the way the people responded to me, recognizing me on the streets and in the hotel lobbies. When I went back to fight in the Philippines [for the Somodio fight], people remembered me from when I used to fight there in the Navy."

In spite of his habit of knocking off the local favorite, Brown was popular wherever he went.

"Believe it or not, a lot of the fans were on my side," he said of those long-ago fights in faraway lands. "They knew I was going to win by the way I trained and the way I carried myself, and went out and bet the house on me."

Brown's fistic journey finally came to an end in Tucson, Arizona, in April 1970. He was less than a month short of his 44th birthday, and a decade past his prime, but still had enough left to win a 10-round decision over Ramon Flores.

"He was supposed to be real tough, but I didn't have no problem with him," said Brown. "At the time, I didn't even realize it was going to be my last fight. I kept looking in the paper, trying to find another new guy coming up in the ranks. But things eventually dried up."

He left with a record of 104-42-13 (48) with 2 no-contests, with the majority of his defeats coming after he lost the title.

When asked what happened to his ring earnings, Brown's expression grew sad and he looked down at his hands. The awkward silence was broken by his nephew, Don Francois, who had accompanied his uncle to Canastota.

"He'd opened up a business in Baton Rouge, a hotel, nightclub, barber shop, the whole setup," said Francois. "He also had a house in Houston. But he was busy traveling and fighting, and wasn't a hands-on owner. He had a guy handling most of it, and got burned pretty bad. He's been living in New Orleans with my mother, on and off, for the past 12, 14 years."

Today, Brown leads a quiet life. He walks two miles around his neighborhood every day, and although he suffers from glaucoma, he remains an avid reader. He is especially pleased that Louisiana has finally afforded him a much-deserved measure of recognition.

"I'm in the high school history book that they use today," said Brown. "They've got my picture and a nice writeup."

Brown thoroughly enjoyed all the attention he received during the IBHF Induction Weekend. He became reacquainted with Ortiz, was constantly surrounded by fans and autograph-seekers, and looked positively thrilled riding in the parade, grinning like a kid and waving at the people lining

the sidewalks. When it was his turn to speak at the Banquet of Champions, Brown's comments were brief, but full of understated confidence.

"To me, boxing was my job," he said. "And I think I did my job pretty good."

Pretty good? You were better than that, Joe. You were one of the best, and now you have a plaque in Canastota to prove it. ■

Bowe-Golota

(Continued from page 42)

low right and a right-left that was borderline. He also scored with several legal shots, including a lead right, a left-right, and with 30 seconds remaining, an overhand right. By the round's end, Bowe's punches were sadly lacking in power. He looked exhausted, further evidence that he hadn't prepared properly.

"He was in the best shape *I* could get him into," said Futch. "He was in good enough shape to get the job done. Why would I have insisted on 12 rounds if he wasn't in shape? It was more a case of Riddick failing to execute the game plan. He thought he could knock out Golota with one punch. He took him too lightly."

Immediately after the bell, there was a hint of the craziness to come. Bowe approached Golota and pushed him on the forearm with both hands. There was no retaliation. As the fighters returned to their corners, Lou Duva rushed halfway across the ring, screaming at Bowe.

The pace slowed in the sixth. Bowe's jab enabled him to win the round, and for the first time, a comeback seemed possible. "But every time he began to get back into the fight," complained Futch, "he'd get nailed [low] again."

In the sixth, Golota's only clear cut low blow came with 27 seconds remaining. After his left landed south, Bowe fell in a delayed reaction. Kelly deducted another point, and a 75-second timeout followed.

Golota was seemingly regaining his advantage in the seventh, when, 70 seconds into the round, he landed a low right. Kelly deducted a third point, and by doing so, increased the likelihood of a DQ ending. (There is no limit to the number of points a referee can deduct before disqualifying a fighter.) Why, then, would Golota, who knew he was winning, risk a disastrous ending by continuing to punch to the body? "I can't explain why," he said. "It's part of the sport. It wasn't intentional."

In fairness to Golota, it should be noted that Bowe was also guilty of repeatedly fouling. He rabbit-punched Golota twice in the first round, three times in the second round, during which Kelly issued a warning, once in the fourth, and twice in the seventh, during which he was again warned. "He threw as many illegal blows as Andrew," said Dino Duva, "and they were more dangerous than the punches Golota threw." Given the potential for damage to the brain, a rabbit punch is considered a major foul.

It was a low blow, however, that launched a thousand flying bodies. With 30 seconds left in the seventh, Golota dug a left into Bowe's groin, and the fouled fighter went down for a third time. This time, there was no warning, no point deduction. Kelly shook his head and waved the fight over.

"With the cups they have today, you can't get hurt with a low blow," said Lou Duva. "That was a great Oscar-winning performance."

(At a press conference one day after the bout, Newman reported that Bowe, who had returned home, was in "rather severe abdominal pain," and was suffering from "swelling in his private parts.")

It was with Bowe still on the canvas that the mini-riot began. From the opening bell, and including the times out, the big fight, Bowe vs. Golota, had taken 33 minutes. The little fights, Polish-Americans vs. African-Americans, everyone vs. the security guards and police, took about five minutes less. Those who care about boxing could only shake their heads in frustration and disgust.

A return bout has never seemed more natural. "Bowe is absolutely desirous of fighting Golota in a rematch," said Newman. But, said Dino Duva, "I will never [again] promote a show where Rock Newman is co-promoter."

Should there be a Bowe-Golota II, look for Main Events to not only promote, but also adjust the purses. For their fight at the Garden, Bowe was paid $5-million and Golota $550,000. "Golota's stock rose 1,000 percent," said Lou Duva. Indeed, at this point, Bowe needs Golota more than vice versa. Should Newman negotiate for fights with Lennox Lewis or Mike Tyson, he would be doing so from a severely weakened position. Moreover, no matter who Bowe beats, all he's going to hear from fans and media alike is, "When are you going to fight Golota again?"

A suggestion: Given the ever-thinning line between boxing and professional wrestling, and considering the heavyweights' histories of fighting dirty, let's reintroduce Bowe and Golota in a steel cage match. No referee, no Rock, and no Captain Lou. We'll even allow both combatants to use Howie Albert-autographed Louisville Sluggers. That way, we'll find out just how effective those protective cups *really* are. ■

New Faces

(Continued from page 16)

won a pair of national Silver Gloves titles. He was runner-up at the Junior Olympics, and finished third at the 1992 U.S. championships. At the '92 Olympic Trials, he lost in the semifinals to Pepe Reilly, who went on to represent the USA in Barcelona. "I thought I won that fight," Salmaci said. "I should've at least gone to the Box-Offs. There's so much politics in the amateurs. Who knows, maybe somebody was feuding with Emanuel."

Training at the Kronk, Salmaci, who stands 6'1" and will probably soon jump to middleweight, boxed with, among others, Carr, Milton McCrory, James Toney, Mark Breland, and Gerald McClellan. "He was 144 pounds when he boxed with Gerald," recalled Steward. "Gerald was knocking everyone out, and he never even knocked Tarick *down*. Tarick is a natural boxer, and he has a great chin. He held his own with everybody."

After compiling an amateur mark of 136-12, Salmaci planned to turn pro wearing the red and yellow of the Kronk. But there were disagreements concerning details of the contract, and while fighter and manager were waiting on each other, Jackie Kallen made an offer. Salmaci signed, and with the exception of a one-year period beginning in April 1994, has been paired with boxing's leading female manager since.

"My dream had been to go pro under

(Continued on page 57)

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New Faces

(Continued from page 55)

the Kronk banner," said Salmaci. "But I saw fighters leaving one by one. I figured there must have been a reason. Maybe they weren't getting enough attention, I don't know. But I don't want to badmouth Emanuel. He took good care of me."

Says Kallen, "Marketability is a big part of boxing, and Tarick is very marketable. He's handsome and he speaks well; you don't have to tell him what to say. And he has a tremendous following in his community. If he ever became a world champion, he'd be such an attraction.

"Tarick hasn't been 100 percent committed. He went to school, he has the cafe. He hasn't given 100 percent to boxing. He was also slowed by arthroscopic surgery on his knee a couple of years ago. Now he seems really ready and I'm just excited. At 15-0, it's time to make a move."

But will Kallen be part of that move? Her contract with Salmaci was to have expired in August. The fighter says he was going to see what offers were made before deciding whether or not to make a switch. "What I'm really looking for is a good promoter," he said. "That's what's gonna make you—the promoter."

What Salmaci's promoter will get is a tall, well-schooled boxer whose jab can be both an offensive and defensive weapon. When Salmaci first boxed at his local recreation center, his coach allowed the boys to fight with only their left hands. The result, according to Carr, is a jab that's "a real nose-buster."

Judging by his record, Salmaci's weakness is punching power. Asked about his anemic kayo percentage, he gets defensive. "I've got above-average power," he says. "I'm a big junior middleweight. I can punch. What I need to work on is jumping on a guy when I hit him and not moving away."

"He's been bulking up, lifting weights," adds Carr. "He wants to punch harder. You put all those Arabs together and they don't care who you fight. They just want to see kayos.

"What I want him to do is fight a little harder at times, punch straighter, and do things picture-perfect in a crisis just like he does in the gym."

So far, Salmaci has put away only five opponents. That in itself is dismissible, but the same can't be said for the quality of his opposition. Some of his victims are such no-names, they don't even appear in the recordbook. For instance, his opponents in 1995, Deltonia Clary and Stacy Goodson, were 5-8-2 and 4-4-1, respectively.

"We've taken our time," acknowledged Salmaci. "I'm still maturing. I used to be 150, 154, and now I walk around at 170. I've dominated every fight. I'm at the point in my career where I'm ready to explode."

A look at the tapes of some of Salmaci's fights confirms his superiority over carefully selected opposition. Technically, he's been excellent, controlling the pace with his jab and limiting the punches absorbed. How he'll adjust when he faces world-class fighters, of course, remains to be seen.

We almost found out last year, when Kallen presented Salmaci the opportunity to fight Hector Camacho at The Palace. Salmaci turned the fight down. "They were gonna give me $7,000," he says. "I was inexperienced. It was a slap in the face. I said I want to fight when I'm ready and when I'm prepared. My goal is to fight for a world championship. I don't want to fight anything for nothing. So now I'm looking for a bout where the winner fights for a world title."

For an undefeated fighter with Salmaci's amateur credentials and pedigree, he remains relatively unknown. TV exposure and a busier schedule will change that. Detroit houses the largest Arab-American community in the United States, and should The Arabian Prince win a world title, his neighbors will party through the wee hours. Who knows, given the wave of Kronk nostalgia such a coronation would create, you might even see Oba and "The Ice Man" wearing *kafiyehs*, munching on stuffed grapeleaves, and, hand in hand, happily dancing the *debka* down the streets of Dearborn. ■

Most Exciting

(Continued from page 25)

Longevity Factor: 3. Too many exhausting experiences should add up to spell the end for Zaragoza in the coming year or so. But that's plenty of time for another couple of title fights, including one against Wayne McCullough.

(Continued on page 58)

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Most Exciting

(Continued from page 57)

7. KEVIN KELLEY

What Makes Him So Exciting: The featherweight gets high marks for his willingness to go to war. Kelley ducked no comers on his way to the WBC title and took the hard road back to the world-class level. The left-hander is a capable boxer with good legs and the ability to throw flashy combinations, but he's most at home trading power shots. Even when he's not winning, Kelley's ability to absorb punishment makes him a pleasure to watch.

Did You See That? It looked like someone had surgically inserted a golf ball under Kelley's right eye, but the swelling induced by Derrick Gainer's punches wasn't enough to stop "The Flushing Flash" from rallying for an improbable TKO win.

Most Exciting Fight: There's plenty to choose from, but Kelley's 12-round punchfest with Troy Dorsey in 1992 has to rank highest. Both combatants averaged more than 100 punches per round.

Capable Of A Stinker? Yes. Kelley should be forced to watch his exhibition-like farce draw with good friend Bones Adams before every fight just to make sure it never happens again.

What Would Be Really Exciting: Rematch, anyone? Alejandro Gonzalez, thought to be a wonder boy off his title-winning knockout of Kelley, has fallen on hard times with losses to Manuel Medina and Luisito Espinosa. A return go would repair much of the damage to the winner's image.

Longevity Factor: 5. The more Kelley continues to meet challenges head-on, the shorter his future at the top. A suspect chin and the mileage accumulated in nearly 50 career bouts will catch up with him, perhaps sooner than later.

8. WAYNE McCULLOUGH

What Makes Him So Exciting: This product of plucky Irish determination seems to operate on pure adrenaline as he windmills away in Henry Armstrong fashion. The WBC bantamweight champion battles like an Energizer Bunny on amphetamine as he surges forward with a non-stop attack. Extraordinary conditioning allows him to carry a pace that makes up for what he lacks in pure boxing skill.

Did You See That? Close calls are beginning to pile up. McCullough escaped with a disputed split decision in his defense against Jose Luis Bueno in April.

Most Exciting Fight: Needed every bit of grit in his wiry-muscled body to escape with a 12-round decision over grizzled Mexican veteran Victor Rabanales, who stood up to McCullough's assault and forced the Irishman to back off and work from the outside.

Capable Of A Stinker? Never. It's hard to be dull when you never stop punching.

What Would Be Really Exciting: If "The Pocket Rocket," who is about to rise in weight, really wants a challenge, he should meet Barrera at 122 pounds.

Longevity Factor: 6.5. Rockets, even of the pocket variety, have notoriously short lives. If he wants to be more than a shooting star, McCullough will have to master some defensive technique.

9. MARK JOHNSON

What Makes Him So Exciting: The recently crowned IBF flyweight champion has got it all. The lanky southpaw can operate behind a stinging right jab or wade in with two-fisted combinations. And he adds the special blend of one-punch knockout power to complete the package.

Did You See That? That's just the problem. With his TV exposure mostly limited to late-night showings on Prime Network cards on the West Coast, too few have gotten a good look at "Too Sharp."

Most Exciting Fight: Johnson's third-round kayo of veteran Panamanian contender Leon Salazar in February 1995 is the flyweight version of Hagler-Hearns. Toe-to-toe all the way, with Johnson dangerously close to being stopped in round two.

Capable Of A Stinker? It's possible. Johnson has all the tools to stick and move and avoid exchanges, but his confidence in his own offense and desire to prove himself should keep filling seats.

What Would Be Really Exciting: Why be satisfied with the IBF hardware? A unification showdown with Japan-based Russian Yuri Arbachakov, who holds the WBC belt, would be an explosive pairing.

Longevity Factor: 8. He's no Archie Moore, but Johnson waited a long time for his try at the flyweight crown. Don't expect him to part with it easily.

10. JOHNNY TAPIA

What Makes Him So Exciting: Tapia fights like he lives—on the edge. The junior bantamweight is a survivor, having returned from a three-year layoff to revive his career with a string of exciting victories. Possessing world-class boxing skills and a long reach doesn't stop Tapia from forcing the action and initiating brawls. He seems to throw every punch as if he needs to score a knockout to win, a quality that makes him a fan favorite.

Did You See That? Sometimes Tapia can't help himself. He was in complete command vs. Ivan Alvarez, but still angered referee Richard Steele with rabbit punches and general roughhousing.

Most Exciting Fight: Tapia played to the crowd throughout his October 1994 stoppage of Henry Martinez, a quality foe who challenged the New Mexican punch for punch. Upon finally vanquishing his foe, Tapia exploded with emotion, as did his loyal fans.

Capable Of A Stinker? Styles make fights, and Tapia doesn't mesh as well with some as others. A slick boxer with lateral movement can upset his rhythm, resulting in a less than satisfying match.

What Would Be Really Exciting: If crosstown rival Danny Romero could muster the courage to step between the ropes against Tapia, New Mexico could attract the attention of the entire boxing world.

Longevity Factor: 5. This mighty mite seems to have his personal life in order for the moment. Still, stability outside the ring will be the deciding factor in how long he remains on the scene. ■

Tommy Deas Jr. is a writer for the Tuscaloosa (Alabama) News and a frequent contributor to this magazine.

Winky Wright

(Continued from page 31)

stream of eyes follows him to his table. His lunch is occasionally interrupted by diners seeking autographs. Others tap Wright on his shoulder as they walk past, saying, "Good job, champ." Andy Lockhart, who owns C.D. Roma's and is among Wright's

sponsors, comes out of the kitchen to greet his popular customer. It seems Wright has upstaged the lunchtime special of all-you-can-eat salad bar and pizza.

"This is our champ," Lockhart says. "The pride of St. Pete."

Wright, 24, won the biggest fight of his six-year career in May, defeating Bronco McKart by split decision. He did so in front of an all-McKart crowd in his opponent's hometown of Monroe, Michigan. "It looked like everybody in town came out to see the fight," says Wright.

That the split decision went to the visitor may have surprised some. But Wright, 35-1 (21), has made a living out of winning on the road. In fact, he has yet to fight in St. Pete, though he has ventured across Tampa Bay and fought 12 times in Tampa. "I'd love to fight in my hometown," he says. "When I get my name out there big like De La Hoya and Roy Jones, then I can do that. But I feel I need to go to Vegas and let people see me fight."

To gain a foothold in the sport, Wright headed in the opposite direction from Las Vegas and crossed a body of water much larger than Tampa Bay. In December 1992, he and manager/trainer Dan Birmingham flew across the Atlantic Ocean to France. At the time, Wright was 16-0 and had never fought outside of Florida. He was summoned by French promoters Louis and Michel Acaries, who had seen one of his fights on cable-television. They thought the young American would add a little punch to their European cards.

"They said, 'We'll make you a champ in three years,'" Wright recalls. "They put it in the contract that I would fight for a title in three years, and so far, they made good on everything they said."

In January 1993, Wright made his European debut in Bettembourg, France, knocking out Darryl Lattimore in the first round. After two more wins, he found himself ranked in the top 10. He fought 16 times in Europe, appearing on cards in Germany, Spain, France, and Monte Carlo.

The French didn't exactly roll out the red carpet for Wright. Even Arye Fain, Birmingham's French partner, first met the two at a Paris train station wearing less than his Sunday best. Upon spotting Fain, who was sporting a long, unkempt beard, Wright poked Birmingham in the ribs and asked, "What did you get me into?"

The answer, it turns out, is something wonderful. Wright was about to embark on a road less traveled, but one that would ultimately work. Call it the Wright way. He earned $5,000 to $10,000 per fight and developed a European following in the process. "The people didn't boo me or anything," he says. "They just wanted to see what I was like. They had big crowds, jam-packed, and they got loud. They got some fight fans over there."

It was not unusual for Wright to be stopped on a Paris street by someone throwing punches in the air while asking in halting English, "You box? You fight?" The Acarieses paid for Wright's BMW, and his ring earnings enabled him to buy a house on a quiet, tree-lined St. Pete street, where he lives with his girlfriend Tammy Ryan, daughter Raven, 3, and son Roemello, six months.

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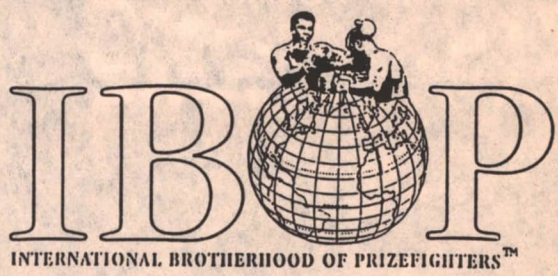

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In August 1994, the Acarieses also delivered on the contract. Less than two years after signing on with the Frenchmen, Wright stepped into the ring in Argentina and took a shot at Julio Cesar Vasquez' WBA junior middleweight crown. He went 12 rounds for the first time, and the loss remains the only smudge on his record. Even in defeat—he was knocked down four times—Wright established himself as a legitimate contender, boxing strongly and repeatedly engaging the stronger champion in toe-to-toe exchanges.

The victory over McKart gave Wright a new status: championship-caliber fighter. "He's got a brilliant career ahead of him," says Birmingham. "I think he's the next Roy Jones in his division."

Birmingham and Wright have been together since the afternoon in 1987 when the fighter walked through the doors of the St. Pete Boxing Club. Wright had recently moved to Florida from Washington, D.C., and was bored. "He was a happy-go-lucky kid who just walked into the gym," recalls Birmingham. "After three, four months, he was hanging with our boxers who had been training for years."

Wright had participated in a variety of sports in D.C., including baseball, basketball, and swimming. When he started boxing, he already possessed excellent hand speed and coordination. Moreover, he was left-handed. Only two weeks later, he won his first Golden Gloves title. "I went to the Nationals with 12 amateur fights," he says. "I could see I had the talent to do it."

But did he have the desire? Even though Wright went 56-4 as an amateur and won the gold medal at 139 pounds at the 1990 U.S. Olympic Festival, he was hardly in love with the sport. He turned pro for financial reasons in 1990, but wasn't in the best of shape for his pro debut, a four-round decision over Anthony Salerno. "I ran a couple of times [before the fight]," he says. "It was still a joke to me. I felt like if I fight, cool, if I don't fight, cool. But [Salerno] kept coming at me and I got tired and still won. After that, I started running every day, doing what I had to do."

Even as he was piling up win after win with relative ease, Wright still wasn't fully confident about a future in boxing. That all changed in May 1992, when he met Delfino Marin in Tampa. It was scheduled to be Wright's first 10-round bout. The longest he'd ever boxed had been six. Adding to the challenge was the fact that Marin had just lost a bout with Buddy McGirt. "People kept asking me how I was going to go 10 rounds since I'd never gone even eight," he says. "And Marin had just fought McGirt. I said, 'It's not who he fought or how long I've gone, it's how we fight when we're together.' I knocked him out in the first round."

Legendary trainer Angelo Dundee, who was in the building that night, approached Wright after the fight. "He told me I could be a champ," recalls Wright, his eyes growing big as he tells the story. "That guy trained Sugar Ray and Ali. That was my turning point."

The next stop was Paris, and Wright hasn't slowed down since. As we went to press, he was awaiting word on his next

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fight. He's looking forward to a shot at WBC/IBF champion Terry Norris or a rematch with WBA titlist Vasquez.

"This is the coolest customer I've ever seen," Birmingham says of Wright. "Against McKart, he wasn't even concerned about being in the other guy's hometown."

"What's to be scared of?" says Wright. "Just go in there and do what you have to do. Do what you're trained to do. I also feel, *I'm the best guy in there. He can't beat me.*"

That's the type of confidence you develop when you've rarely had the crowd behind you. Whether home or on the road, Wright has won 35 of 36 bouts. But he's hardly satisfied; he knows there's so much more to accomplish. In the meantime, he's content to go to the gym each afternoon at 5 p.m. and enjoy his fame, local as it may be. It's no longer cool if he fights, cool if he doesn't. "It's life now," he says. "But my life ain't changed yet. I guess I need big money to change it."

The attention at C.D. Roma's is great, and Winky will always have Paris. But a standing ovation during a postfight victory party at the Planet Hollywood in Caesars Palace ... Now *that* would really be something. ■

Roger Mooney lives in Port Charlotte, Florida, and is a sportswriter for the Port Charlotte Sun Herald.

Blinky Palermo

(Continued from page 45)

is a difficult assignment. Few in boxing remember him fondly.

"I get angry when I think about Blinky Palermo," said Wallace. "He could have done better by me. He ruined boxing for me."

"I have no opinion of him at all," said New York welterweight Jimmy Archer, who briefly fought under Palermo.

"It was unusual that Ike disliked anybody," said Marty Jackson, perhaps Ike Williams' closest friend in the last years of his life. "But I would say he disliked Blinky Palermo."

Even nice guy Harry Markson, the former president of Madison Square Boxing, couldn't find any complimentary words.

"You are not supposed to say anything bad about the dead, are you?," Markson told the *New York Post.* "God forgive me for this, but he wasn't one of the more honorable men in boxing. There just wasn't anything kind you could say about him. I haven't seen him in many years, and I haven't missed him."

In deference to the power that Palermo once wielded, some veteran fight figures in Philadelphia sidestepped speaking about Palermo or simply did not return phone calls to THE RING. Palermo evoked contempt from most, but those who were his friends remain fiercely loyal.

"All I know is that he helped me out at a time when I needed help," said Al Braverman, hired by Palermo to run Liston's training camp for his 1965 rematch with Muhammad Ali. "He was a terrific Damon Runyon character. His inner thoughts and his record, I don't know anything about. Most of the things you read about him are overblown. The boss of boxing was Frankie Carbo. They give Palermo credit for things he never did."

"He got a very bad rap, if you ask me," said Dean Rosenberg, a Philadelphia businessman who managed former junior welterweight contender Frankie Mitchell. "Frank was good to me. What happened in the past was the past. He paid his debt to society."

Braverman recounted a man who craved candy bars and loved to play softball in New York's Central Park with the boxing managers guild. Rosenberg, whose father was friends with Palermo for 40 years, said Duke Ellington performed at a wedding reception for Palermo's daughter while George Raft danced up a storm. He also recalled how Palermo once sat him down and lectured him about staying in high school, stressing the value of an education.

"He couldn't resist a candy bar," Braverman, the director of boxing for Don King Productions, said of Palermo. "He'd walk into a place and walk out with a candy bar. Only he never paid for them. And he loved softball. He played first base, and every once in a while he pitched."

"Any time I ever went to a boxing function with him, everyone gave him a big hello," continued Rosenberg. "All these fighters say they hate him. Well, Sonny Liston didn't hate him. I used to run into Frank's nephew, Ricky, and he wore a pair of interlocked gold boxing gloves

(Continued on page 62)

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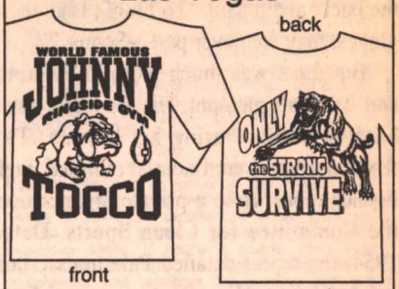

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Blinky Palermo

(Continued from page 61)

around his neck. I read the inscription on the back, and it said, 'To Frank: Like these gloves, may we never part—Sonny.'"

But there was much more to Palermo, and it wasn't pleasant. His rap sheet dated back to 1928. During his heyday, THE RING received a confidential criminal intelligence report from a private organization, the Committee for Clean Sports. Dated 1954, the report detailed Palermo's criminal activities. His offenses ranged from assault with brass knuckles, to tax evasion, to larceny of auto.

When Wallace speaks about Palermo, he tells of a man who robbed him and told him he'd have to take a dive if he wanted to fight the heavyweight champion.

"Twice Blinky didn't pay me," Wallace said. "I never got all my money after the Ezzard Charles fight, and he didn't give me anything after I beat Bill Gilliam at the Eastern Parkway Arena."

Wallace doesn't recall what his purse was for the Gilliam fight. But he knows he was supposed to receive $20,000 for his 1953 bout against Charles. Palermo paid him $3,000 and didn't offer an explanation. When Wallace pressed his manager for an answer, Palermo said the missing money had gone to unforeseen expenses. Although he said he could never prove it, Wallace also insisted he was drugged before the Charles fight in which he was knocked out in the 10th round.

Wallace turned pro in 1950, after beating Rocky Marciano in a national amateur tournament. But securing a legitimate match after Marciano became heavyweight champion was impossible.

"I beat Marciano easy in the amateurs," recalled Wallace. "But they wanted a white heavyweight champion. Blinky told me if I wanted to fight Marciano, I would have to take a dive. I told him, 'No. Forget it.'"

Such was a dilemma faced by many contenders in that era. Jake LaMotta agreed to take a dive against Fox in exchange for a title shot. Many others refused.

"What could you do?" said Wallace. "That was the game. You kept quiet or you didn't fight. I just let it go. That was boxing. I didn't fight for the title. But I have my pride.

"Frankie Carbo controlled boxing. You had to go to him. The way to Carbo was through Blinky. I could have gone to someone else. But without Carbo you didn't get the big money or the big fights. Carbo controlled all the champions."

Added LaMotta, "I knew him and I met him, but it's nothing I like to talk about. It's all been talked about before. There were a lot of people responsible for what happened in boxing. It wasn't just him."

Carbo was once described by an assistant district attorney in New York as "the underworld commissioner of boxing." And while Palermo had stature, Carbo was the boss. A member of what would later become the Genovese crime family, Carbo

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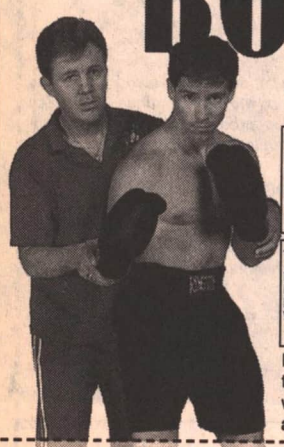

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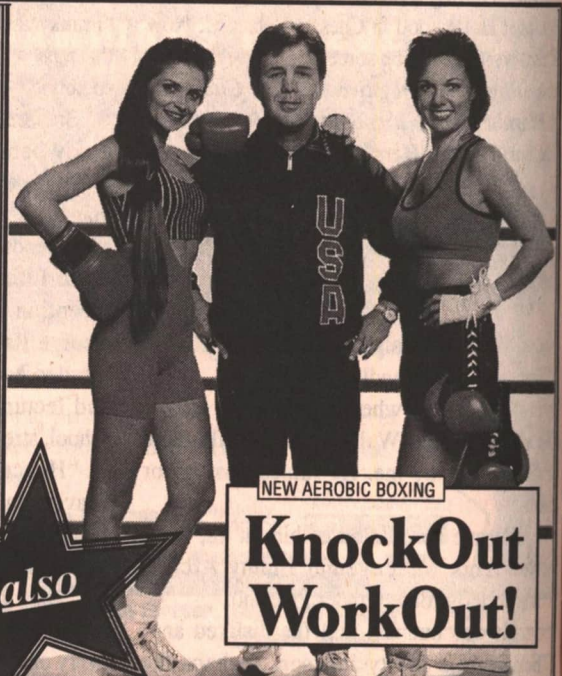

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was arrested for murder on five occasions. He was said to have been the triggerman in the execution of mob turncoat Harry "Big Greenie" Greenberg. Indicted with Carbo for the death of Greenberg was Bugsy Siegel, who allegedly drove the getaway car, and Lepke Buchalter, who headed Murder Incorporated. It is also believed that Carbo ended Siegel's life at the behest of Meyer Lanksy.

When Jim Norris took over Madison Square Garden's boxing department in 1948, he recruited Carbo to ensure the cooperation of New York's fighters and their managers. Soon, the fighters making the most money and participating in the biggest fights were, in the words of Norris' associate Truman Gibson, either Carbo-controlled or Carbo-oriented. An alliance with Carbo was a natural for Palermo, and together they guaranteed Norris' International Boxing Club a monopoly.

"I started out with Palermo when I first turned pro," said Archer. "But he gave me a bad decision at the Garden, and that was it. I didn't think he did the right job by me."

Archer said his manager of record, Mike Schneider, was a front man for Palermo. After he lost another close decision, Archer left the Schneider-Palermo tandem and began booking his own fights. He was able to freely walk away because Palermo hadn't invested money in him. Later, Palermo tried to manage Archer's younger brother Joey, a top middleweight contender who twice fought for the title.

"Had they bought my contract, they would have protected me," said Archer. "They didn't give two f____. Then they were looking to go after Joey. I sent him to Texas in 1958. When he was 30-0 [in 1960], I told him to come back. They were all broken up by then."

When Sen. Estes Kefauver, chairman of the Senate Antitrust and Monopoly subcommittee, launched an investigation into boxing in the late-'50s, Carbo and Palermo's grip began to loosen. LaMotta testified that he had agreed to take a dive against Fox. Scores of other fighters testified as well, including Williams, who said Palermo relayed bribe offers, totaling $230,000, for four fights, including $100,000 for a bout vs. Kid Gavilan in 1949, and $50,000 for a bout vs. Jimmy Carter in 1951. He refused the offers and testified that Palermo had advised him not to accept them. He lost the Gavilan and Carter fights, but in the other fights that had included bribe offers, beat Freddy Dawson and Juste Fontaine.

"I should have taken the money," Williams quietly said as he ended his testimony. The suggestion was that whether he agreed to dive or not, the fix would have been in. He also testified that he carried fighters for the benefit of gamblers, and that Palermo kept the entire purses of his 1948 fights vs. Beau Jack and Jesse Flores. Williams nonetheless had to pay income taxes on both purses.

"Ike himself told me that there were two purses for $32,500 that he was supposed to be paid, and he never saw a red cent," said Jackson.

The ride ended for Carbo and Palermo in 1960. After trying to muscle into the management of California welterweight Don Jordan, Carbo, Palermo, Gibson, and two West Coast wiseguys were indicted for extortion and conspiracy to violate the Federal Anti-Racketeering Act. After exhausting the appeal process, Carbo was sentenced to 25 years. He died in prison. Palermo was sentenced to 15 years. After serving eight, he was paroled in 1971.

In 1978, Palermo, 73, attempted to make a comeback, but after applying for a manager's license in Pennsylvania, he withdrew, blaming the media for destroying his chances.

"I think the news media is very unfair," Palermo said at the time. "I paid my debt to society, so what do they want?"

Both before and after his prison sentence, Palermo's involvement in boxing will forever be clouded by the loyalty of his friends and the reluctance of people to speak freely. Like most aspects of organized crime, Palermo's influence remains shrouded between fact and fable. But his actions in the '40s and '50s is a matter of public record. There used to be a saying that once the mob gets a fighter, they don't let go until he's washed-up, blind, or dead. Palermo may have been good to his friends, but his fighters, most of whom walked away financially strapped and emotionally scarred, recall a much different person. Someone they would hardly consider a friend. ■

Robert Cassidy is a frequent contributor to The Ring.

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FISKE ON FIGHTS

By Jack Fiske

Don't invite Roy Jones and his advisers, Stan and Fred Levin, and Lou DiBella and the suits over at HBO, to the same fish fry. The problem, naturally, is a matter of money. There's also been some name-calling in public.

HBO and the brothers Levin are at great odds over Jones' selection of opponents and the purses he has been demanding to defend the IBF super middleweight title. What apparently started out as a quiet contretemps conducted over the phone and in private has escalated into harsh words and counter-charges aired live on an HBO boxing broadcast.

HBO has come down hard on Jones, whom the network readily acknowledges to be the best fighter in the world, hinting on-air that he's a coward for not accepting a better grade of opponents.

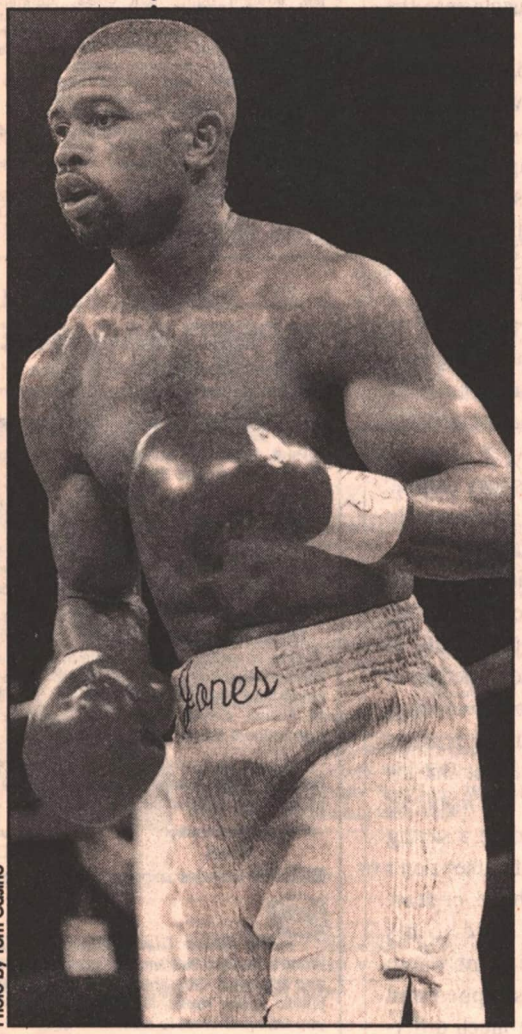

Photo by Tom Casino

The relationship between Roy Jones and HBO has become strained, largely because of the quality of the undefeated champion's opposition. Canadian Eric Lucas was undeserving of a shot at boxing's best fighter.

The undefeated Jones remains the choice to beat just about anyone he faces. HBO recognizes that fact, and the suits want better challengers for their money. The Levins claim they've offered fights to the type of opposition HBO desires, but have been rebuffed.

According to HBO's contract with Square Ring (Jones' promoter), mandatory defenses aside, the champion chooses his opponents and pays them out of his purses from HBO. (Jones also pays the mandatory challengers.) One problem, the Jones camp claims, is that after paying his opponents, the champion's purses are too small for him to make a decent payday.

DiBella, HBO's senior vice president of sports programming, could barely contain his ire when reminded of the Levins' position. "Why should we do a hatchet job on the best fighter in the world?" he shouted. At first, DiBella said he wouldn't respond on the record for this column. He later relented.

"Our contracts are not public information," DiBella said, "but I will tell you that the provision for opponent approval in Roy's contract is no different than what Hagler, Tyson, Whitaker, and De La Hoya had in their contracts. Roy is a tremendous talent and an important HBO star, and we believe that, working with Square Ring, we can help him realize his full potential as a fighter and an attraction.

"I would suggest Fred and Stanley shut up and start acting professionally as advisers and promoters. To blame HBO for the criticism they have taken from the press and public is idiotic."

The most recent blowup was occasioned by Jones' selection of lightly regarded Canadian Eric Lucas. Jones was mercilessly savaged by the media before and after the one-sided fight. Some of the criticism came from HBO's announcers. In light of the easy fights other past and present champions have squeezed in, I found the criticism to be undeserved.

"What they did on television and in the press to [Jones'] reputation is much worse than what [the judges] did to him in Korea in the Olympics," said Fred Levin. "Roy was deeply hurt by the charges."

The Levins contend that the likes of Montell Griffin, WBA light heavyweight champion Virgil Hill, and Nigel Benn have been approached regarding a fight with Jones. The responses: No, no, and no. Jones, said the Levins, is also willing to face small heavyweights such as Mike Tyson,

Evander Holyfield, and Michael Moorer, as well as unbeaten IBF light heavyweight champion Henry Maske.

Since winning the title from James Toney, Jones has defended against Antoine Byrd (KO 1), Vinny Pazienza (KO 6), Tony Thornton (KO 3), and Lucas (KO 11), and, in a non-title bout, stopped Merqui Sosa (KO 2). Jones' contract calls for two bouts on HBO and one on TVKO, the network's pay-per-view arm, per year. The contract, signed 1½ years ago, runs for three years, with HBO having the right to extend it for another three.

"We were given less money [than usual] for Lucas," said Stan Levin. [The fight took the place of a pay-per-view bout, and as such, was negotiated separately from Jones' contract with HBO.] "HBO did not like Lucas, but since Roy had had knee surgery in May and would be playing basketball [on the afternoon of the fight], he wanted an easier foe. But Roy got half of what he normally gets [Jones was paid $1.5-million], and we paid the opponent $105,000."

In short, Jones wants more money to perform in what he would view as more difficult fights.

"Hill wants a million dollars, and we told HBO that we'd need some help [in paying him]," said Stan Levin. "Why should Roy pay more than what he will get to fight the harder fights?"

"I hate having to air our laundry publicly," responded DiBella. "But perhaps Stan should talk to his brother because an offer was made by HBO to Fred Levin to increase our license fee to help to defray the cost of Hill. Still, even with HBO paying an additional portion of Hill's purse, Square Ring has to function effectively as a promoter, to find site revenue and foreign revenue to maximize their fighter's earnings. Perhaps they should spend more time doing that than talking to THE RING."

As we went to press, it appeared that Jones would defend against Bryant Brannon in November. If Brannon declines the opportunity, as he has done once before, the opponent will likely be Charles Brewer.

Stan Levin feels HBO "failed to understand how great Roy is in the ring." At the time they signed the contract, the Levins believed there was plenty of suitable competition. "HBO signed Virgil Hill with the idea of putting him in with Jones, and [Hill] said no," continued Stan Levin. "They know we'll fight anybody."

What Hill said no to was Team Jones' idea of two bouts in one night in Portland, Oregon, with the champion defending against Brannon, and then challenging Hill. The major state commissions also nixed the plan. Hill is now scheduled to face Maske in a 175-pound unification bout.

The view from here: HBO made a bad deal for itself and is attempting to shame a potentially great fighter into sweetening a deal that's sour. ■

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WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by THE RING are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the WBA and WBC ratings were compiled as of June 1996, and the IBF ratings were compiled as of July 1996.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Mike Tyson (USA)	C	1	–
Bruce Seldon (USA)	–	C	–
Michael Moorer (USA)	–	–	C
Lennox Lewis (GB)	1	7	6
Oliver McCall (USA)	2	2	2
Frank Bruno (GB)	3	8	7
Ray Mercer (USA)	4	–	–
Larry Donald (USA)	5	–	–
Jeremy Williams (USA)	6	–	–
Zeljko Mavrovic (CROA)	7	12	–
Evander Holyfield (USA)	8	4	–
Andrew Golota (POL)	9	10	8
Orlin Norris (USA)	10	3	5
Tony Tucker (USA)	16	5	–
Vaughn Bean (USA)	15	6	4
Crawford Grimsley (USA)	22	9	–
Francois Botha (SA)	–	–	1
Corrie Sanders (SA)	12	–	3
Buster Mathis Jr. (USA)	24	–	9
Obed Sullivan (USA)	19	–	10

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	C	–	–
Nate Miller (USA)	–	C	–
Alfred Cole (USA)	–	–	C
Alexander Gurov (UKR)	1	2	4
Akim Tafer (FRA)	2	7	10
Robert Daniels (USA)	3	3	6
Terry Dunstan (GB)	4	12	8
David Izeqwire (NIG)	5	–	7
Gary Ballard (SA)	6	–	–
Jacob Mofokeng (SA)	7	–	3
Carl Thompson (GB)	8	–	–
Patrice Aouissi (FRA)	9	5	–
Chris Okoh (GB)	10	–	9
Adolpho Washington (USA)	–	1	1
Torsten May (GER)	–	4	2
Ezequiel Paixao (BRA)	24	6	–
Brian Laspada (USA)	20	8	–
Rick Lamontagne (USA)	–	9	–
Arimetea Silva (BRA)	–	10	–
Uriah Grant (USA)	26	–	5

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	C	–	–
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	C	–
Henry Maske (GER)	–	–	C
Montell Griffin (USA)	1	3	2
Mike McCallum (USA)	2	8	4
Eddy Smulders (HOLL)	3	1	12
Crawford Ashley (GB)	4	–	7
William Guthrie (USA)	5	2	1
Nicky Piper (GB)	6	–	–
Maurice Core (GB)	7	–	–
Merqui Sosa (DR)	8	–	–
Lincoln Carter (USA)	9	–	11
Marek Piotrowski (POL)	10	–	–
Michael Nunn (USA)	–	4	–
Lou Del Valle (USA)	–	5	6
Duran Williams (USA)	–	6	5
Gary Ballard (SA)	–	7	10
Leif Keiski (SWE)	27	9	–
Stephan Anghern (SWI)	–	10	9
Darrin Allen (USA)	20	–	3
Graciano Rocchigiani (GER)	–	–	8

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Thulane Malinga (SA)	C	–	–
Frank Liles (USA)	–	C	–
Roy Jones (USA)	–	–	C
Henry Wharton (GB)	1	–	–
Luciano Torres (BRA)	2	1	11
Bryant Brannon (USA)	3	5	1
Frederic Seillier (FRA)	4	10	7
Michael Nunn (USA)	5	–	–
Vincenzo Nardiello (ITA)	6	–	–
Joe Calzaghe (GB)	7	–	6
Andrei Shkalikov (RUS)	8	–	9
Steve Little (USA)	9	4	10
Mauro Galvano (ITA)	10	–	–
Henry Wharton (GB)	–	2	5
Nigel Benn (GB)	–	3	12
Mike Makata (NZ)	–	6	–
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	24	7	8
Tim Littles (USA)	–	8	–
Zafarou Ballogou (TOGO)	–	9	–
Charles Brewer (USA)	12	–	2
Segundo Mercado (ECU)	25	–	3
Jean-Claude M'biye (FRA)	–	–	4

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Keith Holmes (USA)	C	–	–
William Joppy (USA)	–	C	–
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	–	–	C
Richie Woodhall (GB)	1	–	7
Otis Grant (CAN)	2	6	–
Quincy Taylor (USA)	3	–	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	4	4	–
John David Jackson (USA)	5	1	1
Julian Jackson (USA)	6	–	–
Robert Allen (USA)	7	–	2
Robert McCracken (GB)	8	–	3
Agostino Cardamone (ITA)	9	–	–
Aaron Davis (USA)	10	8	–
Peter Venancio (BRA)	–	2	–
Shinji Takehara (JAP)	–	3	–
Paul Vaden (USA)	–	5	–
Chongmo Kim (KOR)	–	7	–
Glen Johnson (USA)	–	9	8
Derrick Rolon (USA)	21	10	11
Lloyd Bryan (USA)	–	–	4
Alexander Zaitsev (RUS)	19	–	5
Alex Rios (USA)	–	–	6
Juan Carlos Viloria (COL)	26	–	9
Bo James (USA)	–	–	10

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	–	C
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	–	C	–
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	1	4	5
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	2	–	–
Raul Marquez (USA)	3	7	1
Ahmed Dottuev (BALK)	4	–	–
David Ciarlante (ITA)	5	–	–
Carl Daniels (USA)	6	1	2
Ernie Artango (AUSTRL)	7	–	–
Said Bennajem (FRA)	8	–	–
Paul Vaden (USA)	9	–	7
Alex Rios (USA)	10	–	–
Robert McCracken (GB)	–	2	–
Alejandro Ugueto (VEN)	–	3	–
Johnson Tshuma (SA)	–	5	–
Giovanni Pretorious (SA)	–	6	3
Guillermo Jones (PAN)	–	8	10
Javier Castillejo (SPA)	24	9	–
Engels Pedroza (VEN)	15	10	–
Anthony Stephens (USA)	–	–	4
Steve Foster (GB)	–	–	6
Adrian Dodson (GB)	18	–	8
Rossman Henry (COL)	–	–	9

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	–	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	1	3	3
Gary Jacobs (GB)	2	–	10
Patrick Charpentier (FRA)	3	4	2
Derrell Coley (USA)	4	–	8
Pedro Sanchez (DR)	5	9	11
Ralph Jones (USA)	6	–	–
James Page (USA)	7	–	–
Jose Luis Navarro (SPA)	8	–	–
Andrei Pestryaev (RUS)	9	2	–
Pat Coleman (USA)	10	6	–
Oba Carr (USA)	–	1	1
Sean Sullivan (NZ)	–	5	–
Andrew Murray (GUY)	13	7	6
Jufrison Pontoh (RUS)	–	8	–
Donald Stoke (USA)	–	10	–
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	–	4
Yori Boy Campas (MEX)	–	–	5
Tony Martin (USA)	–	–	7
Ray Lovato (USA)	29	–	9

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Oscar De La Hoya (USA)	C	–	–
Juan Coggi (ARG)	–	C	–

Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)	–	–	C
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	1	–	–
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	2	3	–
Khalid Rahilou (FRA)	3	1	–
Ismael Chaves (ARG)	4	–	–
Charles Murray (USA)	5	6	7
Freddie Ladd (USA)	6	–	–
Soren Sondergaard (DEN)	7	–	4
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	8	–	6
David Kamau (USA)	9	4	3
Jose Barbosa (VEN)	10	5	–
Frankie Randall (USA)	–	2	–
Jong Hoon Yuh (KOR)	–	7	–
Jan Bergman (SA)	–	8	1
Hiromu Kuwata (JAP)	20	9	–
Nicolas Cervera (COL)	13	10	–
Freddie Pendleton (USA)	–	–	2
Jermal Corbin (USA)	–	–	5
Ralph Jones (USA)	–	–	8
Virgil McClendon (USA)	–	–	9
Leonardo Mas (PR) *	–	–	10

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jean-Baptiste Mendy (FRA)	C	–	–
Orzubek Nazarov (JAP)	–	C	–
Philip Holiday (SA)	–	–	C
Steve Johnston (USA)	1	4	6
Shane Mosley (USA)	2	10	–
Cesar Bazan (MEX)	3	–	–
Angel Mona (FRA)	4	5	–
Lamar Murphy (USA)	5	–	–
Ivan Robinson (USA)	6	6	1
Hiroyuki Sakamoto (JAP)	7	3	–
Ricardo Silva (ARG)	8	–	–
David Dodi Tetteh (GHA)	9	11	12
Manuel Fernandez (FRA)	10	–	–
Leavander Johnson (USA)	–	1	9
Fred Ladd (USA)	–	2	2
Adrianus Taroreh (INDO)	–	7	–
Carlos Fernandez (PORT)	–	8	–
Oleg Marchenko (RUS)	–	9	–
Demetrius Ceballos (USA)	30	–	3
Miguel Julio (COL)	–	–	4
John Lark (USA)	–	–	5
Joel Perez (USA)	–	–	7
Billy Schwer (GB)	14	–	8
Joel Diaz (USA)	–	–	10

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	C	–	–
Yong Soo Choi (KOR)	–	C	–
Arturo Gatti (USA)	–	–	C
Anatoly Alexandrov (RUS)	1	2	4
Gabriel Ruelas (USA)	2	–	–
Roberto Garcia (USA)	3	6	2
Ulrich Johnson (TRIN)	4	11	–
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	5	–	–
Julien Lorcy (FRA)	6	1	10
Pedro Gutierrez (ARG)	7	–	–
Tracy Patterson (USA)	8	–	1
Boris Sinitsin (RUS)	9	–	5
Justin Juuko (UGA)	10	–	–
Carlos Gerena (PR)	–	3	–
Lakva Sim (MON)	–	4	–
Orlando Soto (PAN)	–	5	–
Djamel Lifa (FRA)	13	7	8
Yamato Mitani (JAP)	–	8	–
Gilberto Gonzalez (VEN)	–	9	–
Douglas Villarreal (COL)	11	10	11
John Brown (USA)	–	–	3
Cliff Samardin (AUSTRL)	22	–	6
Jaime Rangel (COL)	–	–	7
Wilson Rodriguez (DR)	–	–	9

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Luisito Espinoza (PHIL)	C	–	–
Wilfredo Vazquez (PR)	–	C	–
Tom Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
Cesar Soto (MEX)	1	7	–
Carlos Rios (ARG)	2	–	–
Manuel Medina (MEX)	3	–	–
Alejandro Gonzalez (MEX)	4	–	–
Yuji Watanabe (JAP)	5	1	–
Billy Hardy (GB)	6	5	4
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	7	–	1
Yong Woon Park (KOR)	8	–	–
David Santos (USA)	9	2	3
Stefano Zoff (ITA)	10	–	–
Eloy Rojas (VEN)	–	3	–
Miguel Arrozal (PHIL)	–	4	–
Ilham Lahia (INDO)	–	6	–
Ever Beleno (COL)	–	8	7
Roque Cassiani (COL)	–	9	–
Arnulfo Castillo (USA)	–	10	9
Welcome Ncita (SA)	–	–	2
Jose Badillo (PR)	–	12	5
November Ntshingila (AUSTRL)	–	–	6
Victor Polo (COL)	–	–	8
Colin McMillan (GB)	21	–	10

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	C	–	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	–	C	–
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	–	–	C
Erik Morales (MEX)	1	4	–
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	2	–	–
Tsuyoshi Harada (JAP)	3	8	–
Yuichi Kasai (JAP)	4	1	–
Hector Acero-Sanchez (DR)	5	–	–
Bong Chul Kim (KOR)	6	6	–
Enrique Jupiter (MEX)	7	–	–
Enrique Sanchez (MEX)	8	12	–
Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA)	9	5	1
Harold Mestre (COL)	10	–	–
Yober Ortega (VEN)	–	2	–
Rafael Del Valle (PR)	–	3	–
Jesus Salud (USA)	12	7	9
Mike Garcia (USA)	–	9	–
Ramon Guzman (VEN)	–	10	–
Nurhuda (INDO)	–	–	2
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	–	–	3
Salim Medjkoune (FRA)	14	–	4
Jesus Perez (COL)	–	–	5
Rey Jamil (PHIL)	–	–	6
Victor Llerena (COL)	–	–	7
Aristead Clayton (USA)	28	–	8
Angel Chacon (PR)	24	–	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	C	–	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	–	C	–
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	–	–	C
Sirimongkol Singmanassuk (THAI)	1	–	–
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	2	–	–
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	3	–	–
Pastor Maurin (ARG)	4	9	–
In Jin Chi (KOR)	5	–	–
Paul Ayala (USA)	6	7	7
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	7	–	10
Khaoyai Mahasarakam (THAI)	8	–	–
Jorge Monsalvo (COL)	9	–	–
Li Gwang Sik (KOR)	10	–	–
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	–	1	5
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	–	2	–
Lukhin CP Gym (THAI)	–	3	–
John Armour (GB)	–	4	–
Angel Chacon (PR)	–	5	–
Abraham Torres (VEN)	–	6	–
Tim Austin (USA)	19	8	1
Setsuo Kawamasu (JAP)	11	10	–
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	2
Adrian Kaspari (INDO)	23	–	3
Harold Mestre (COL)	–	–	4
Rafael Del Valle (PR)	–	–	6
Ancee Gedeon (USA)	–	–	8
Sergio Reyes (USA)	–	–	9

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Hiroshi Kawashima (JAP)	C	–	–
Alimi Goitia (VEN)	–	C	–
Harold Grey (COL)	–	–	C
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	1	6	–
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	2	–	–
Luis Bolanos (COL)	3	5	–
Hipolito Saucedo (USA)	4	–	–
Cecilio Espino (USA)	5	–	–
Adonis Cruz (NIC)	6	7	–
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	7	1	–
Luis Benavides (COL)	8	11	10
Domingo Sosa (DR)	9	–	–
Jesper Jensen (DEN)	10	–	–
Yokthai Sithoar (THAI)	30	2	–
Veeraphol Sahaprom (THAI)	20	3	–
Danny Romero (USA)	–	4	2
Jai Chin Lim (KOR)	11	8	–
Satoshi Iida (JAP)	–	9	–
Jose Alonso Moreno (MEX)	29	10	–
Jaji Sibali (SA)	19	–	1
Ubadel Soto (COL)	–	–	3
Andy Agosto (PR)	25	–	4
Carlos Salazar (ARG)	–	–	5
Jose Diaz (USA)	–	–	6
Ricky Matulessi (INDO)	–	–	7
Ratanachai Sor Voraphin (THAI)	26	–	8
Polito Saucedo (USA)	–	–	9

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	C	–	–
Saen Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	–	C	–
Mark Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	1	4	9
Chatchai Sasakul (THAI)	2	–	1
Daniel Ward (SA)	3	2	–
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	4	8	10
Gabriel Mira (MEX)	5	–	–
Ladislao Vazquez (MEX)	6	–	–
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	7	6	–
Chokchai Chokviwat (THAI)	8	–	–
Takato Toguchi (JAP)	9	9	–
Hyung Sok Kang (KOR)	10	–	–
Evangelino Perez (PAN)	–	1	3
Leo Gamez (VEN)	19	3	–
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	28	5	–
Alexander Mahmutov (RUS)	16	7	–
Takashi Ohba (JAP)	21	10	–
Yokthai Sithoar (THAI)	–	–	2
Luigi Camputaro (ITA)	12	–	4
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	–	–	5
Yodchingchai Sornthong (THAI)	–	–	6
Irene Pacheco (COL)	–	–	7
Abdi Pohan (INDO)	–	–	8

JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	C	–	–
Keiji Yamaguchi (JAP)	–	C	–
Michael Carbajal (USA)	–	–	C
Chiquita Gonzalez (MEX)	1	–	3
Manuel Jesus Herrera (DR)	2	4	4
Phanieng Sasiprabha-Poontarat (THAI)	3	11	–
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	4	12	–
Yamil Caraballo (COL)	5	–	–
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	6	–	–
Antonio Perez (MEX)	7	–	–
Luis Doria (COL)	8	–	7
Ric Magramo (PHIL)	9	–	–
Ali Galvez (CHILE)	10	–	–
Pichitnoi Sithbangprachan (THAI)	–	1	–
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	–	2	–
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	–	3	–
Sinn Ploenchit (THAI)	–	5	–
Jin Ho Kim (KOR)	–	6	–
Hadao C.P. Gym (THAI)	–	7	–
Jesus Chong (MEX)	–	8	–
Yuichi Hosono (JAP)	–	9	–
Yong Jin Kim (KOR)	27	10	–
Mauricio Pastrana (COL)	30	–	1
P.S. Wonjongkam (THAI)	–	–	2
Anis Roga (INDO)	–	–	5
Phichitnoi Chor Siriwat (THAI)	11	–	6
Onewin Chareon (THAI)	–	–	8
Jesus Chong (USA)	–	–	9
Will Grigsby (USA)	–	–	10

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	–	–
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	–	C	–
Ratanapol Voraphin (THAI)	–	–	C
Rocky Lin (JAP)	1	3	–
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	2	2	–
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	3	9	6
Sinn Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	4	–	–
Morgan Ndumo (SA)	5	–	8
Myung Sup Park (KOR)	6	–	–
Sang Chul Lee (KOR)	7	–	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	8	1	–
Kitti Chai Preecha (THAI)	9	–	–
Payak Nakornluang (THAI)	10	–	–
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	12	4	3
Yamil Caraballo (COL)	–	5	–
Noel Tunacao (INDO)	–	6	–
Kermin Guardia (COL)	–	7	–
Rhindile Ngingi (SA)	–	8	–
Javier Medina (NIC)	–	10	–
Osvaldo Guerrero (MEX)	–	–	1
Juan Herrera (COL)	16	11	2
Mongol Charoen (THAI)	–	–	4
Ernesto Rubillar (PHIL)	26	–	5
Gustavo Vera (VEN)	19	–	7
Lee Sandoval (NIC)	23	–	9
Joseph Orgalesa (PHIL)	–	–	10

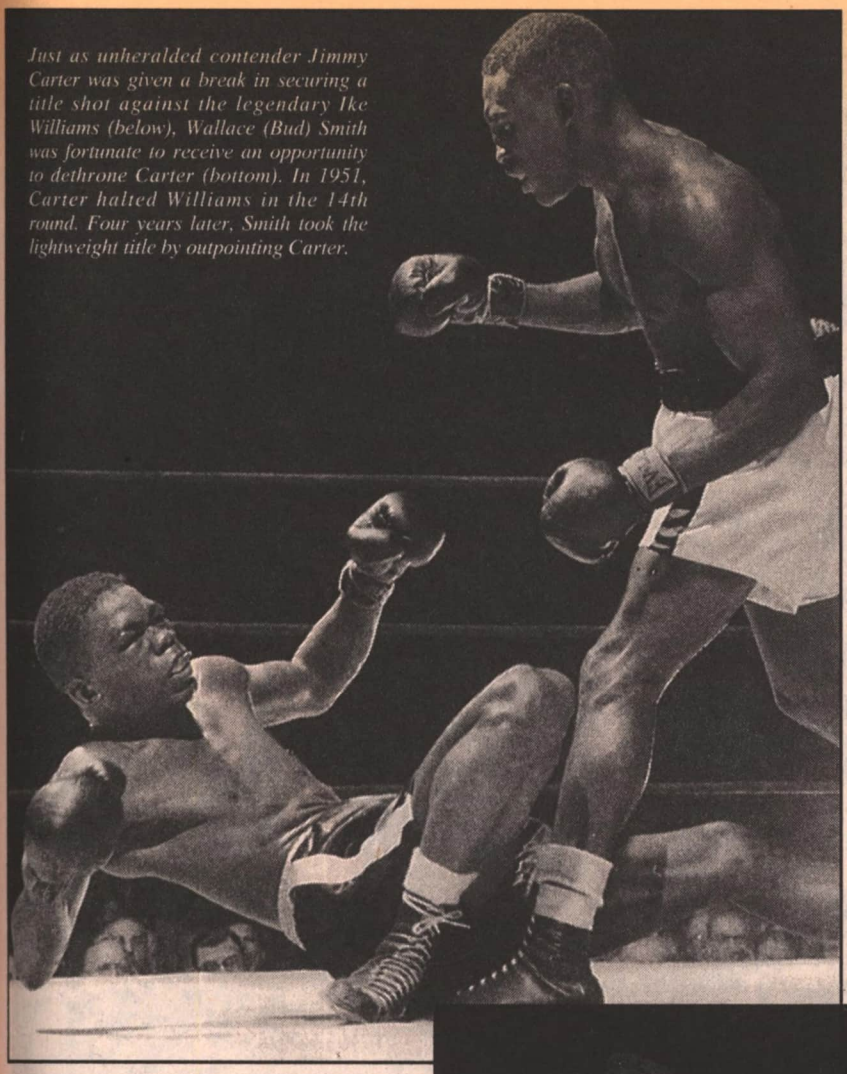
CLASSIC

Was Jimmy Braddock lucky to win the heavyweight title? Braddock, boxing's ultimate Cinderella story, started his title run when he was chosen to fight hot prospect Corn Griffin. Braddock won in the second round.

WHEN LADY LUCK SMILES

Many a not too highly rated fighter has reached championship heights on sudden, unexpected "breaks"

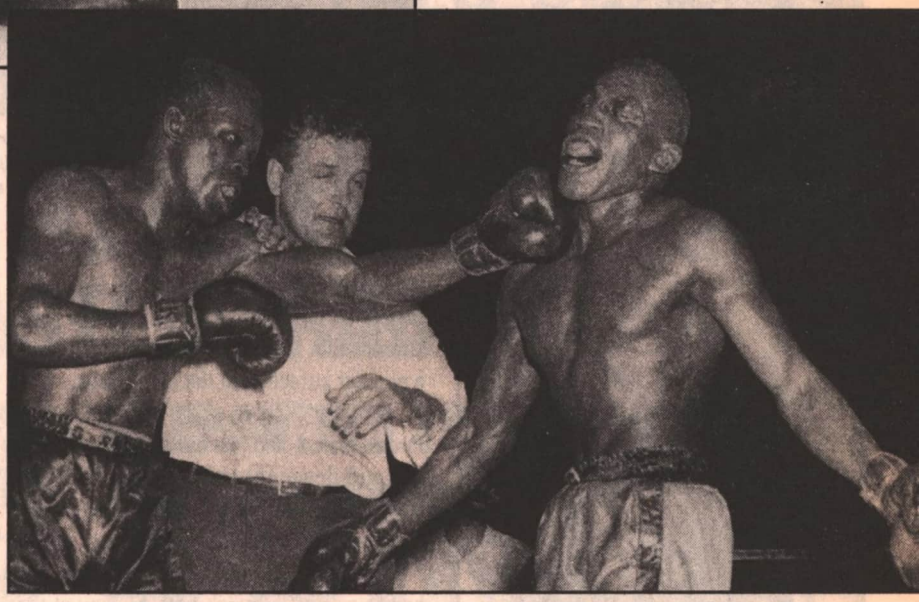
From The Ring, December 1955



Just as unheralded contender Jimmy Carter was given a break in securing a title shot against the legendary Ike Williams (below), Wallace (Bud) Smith was fortunate to receive an opportunity to dethrone Carter (bottom). In 1951, Carter halted Williams in the 14th round. Four years later, Smith took the lightweight title by outpointing Carter.

When Smith was announced as Carter's opponent in a championship bout in Boston last summer, the reaction of public and press was something less than enthusiastic. What qualified Bud for a shot at the title? The Cincinnatian had been a rated contender a year or so before, but an erratic record had practically pushed him out of the Big Time scene. To make matters worse, he hadn't fought in six months. No one conceded him much of a chance against Carter, and the New England populace thought so little of the match, they stayed away from the Boston Garden in wholesale lots.

But Smith's chances of beating Carter weren't considered any more forlorn than Jimmy's had been when he first won the lightweight title in 1951. Carter certainly didn't rate the crack at Ike Williams in Madison Square Garden. A half-dozen other lightweights had more logical reasons to be nominated for the shot. In fact, just before he was named to face Williams, Carter was beaten by a featherweight, Percy Bassett, in Philadelphia. The New York public was so apathetic toward the bout that it attracted one of the poorest turnouts ever drawn by a championship affair in Garden history.



By Jersey Jones

It is an old saying in this rugged trade that reaching the championship heights is a combination of "50 percent ability and 50 percent luck."

The percentages may be a matter for debate, but there is no arguing that the element of luck plays an important role in any fighter's success.

A champion is supposed to be the best man in his class. Usually he is, but often enough he is not. Check through the ring archives and you'll learn that such superb mechanics as Packey McFarland, Mike Gibbons, Sam Langford, Frankie Burns, Jeff Smith, and Memphis Pal Moore, to list only some of the many, never held world titles, yet at the peaks of their careers they unquestionably were the top men in their divisions.

On the other hand, or fist, we have had quite a few champions who certainly weren't the best in their classes. They were lucky in getting what the trade calls "the breaks," and they made the most of the unexpected opportunities.

The current series between Jimmy Carter and Wallace (Bud) Smith for the world lightweight title offers a timely example.

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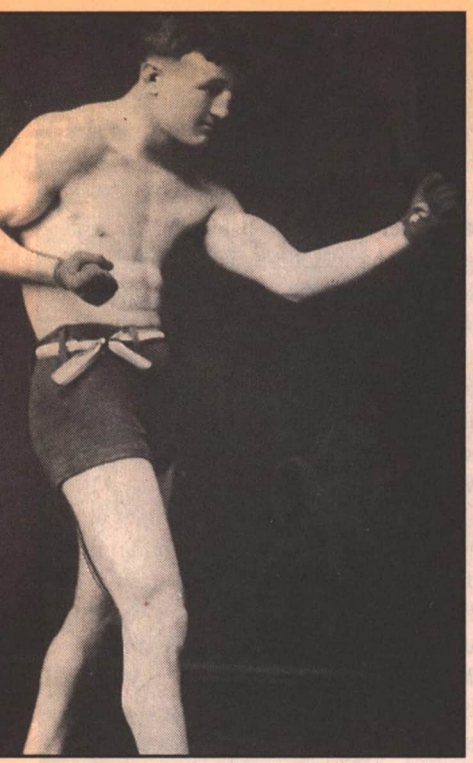
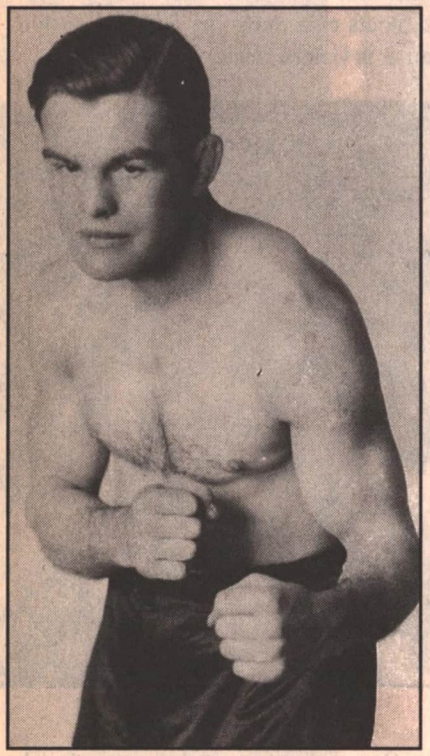
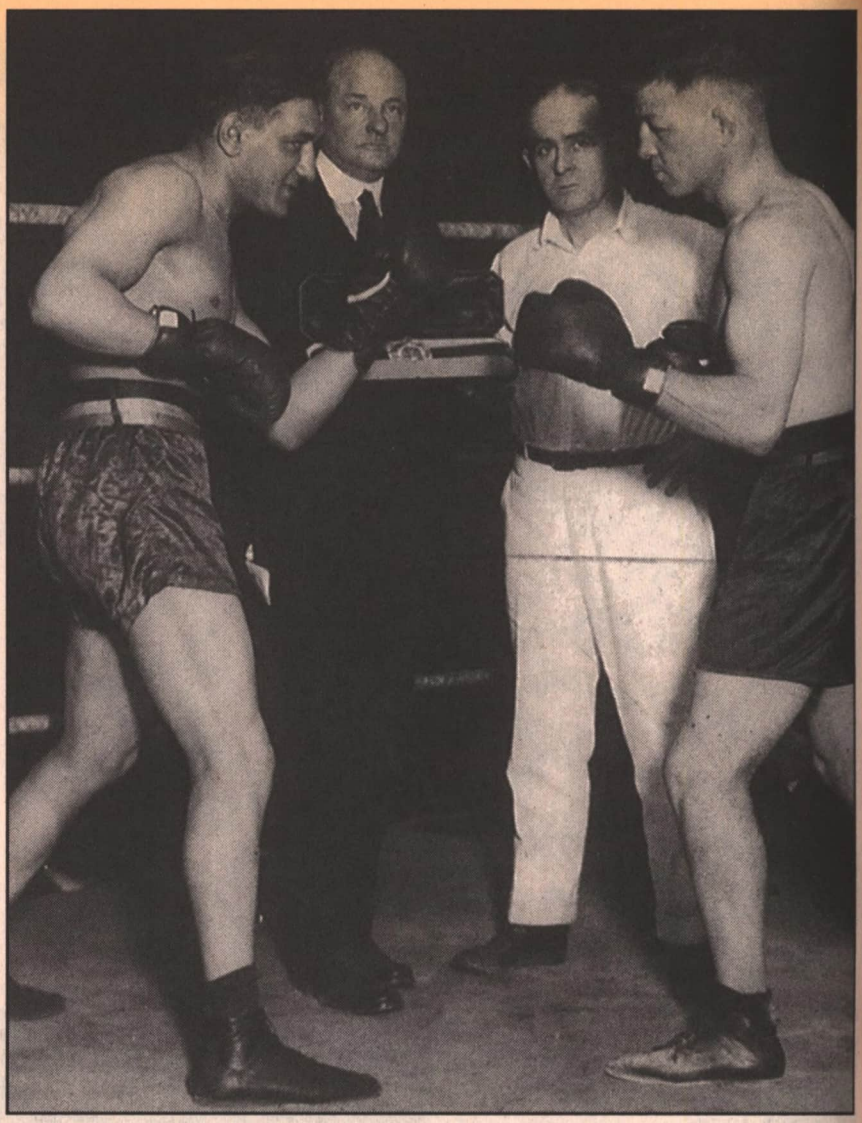
One of the most notable cases of rank outsiders becoming world champions was that of Al McCoy, southpaw Brooklyn middleweight, who grabbed the middleweight title in a stunning one-round job early in 1914.



Al McCoy, who captured middleweight honors in 1914, was the original "cheese champion." He lucked into a title fight when the defending boss, George Chip, substituted for his ailing brother Joe. McCoy kayoed George in one round.



When lightweight champion Benny Leonard first retired, Jimmy Goodrich seemed an unlikely candidate to capture the vacant title. The native of Scranton, Pennsylvania, wasn't considered one of the leading contenders, but he managed to beat Sid Terris and Sammy Mandell, among others, to the throne.



Johnny Wilson squares off vs. Mike O'Dowd, with promoter Tex Rickard looking on. The lightly regarded Wilson twice beat O'Dowd in middleweight title fights. Wilson wanted to prove the first win wasn't a fluke, so he asked for, and won the rematch. He was ultimately dethroned by the great Harry Greb.

McCoy was a rugged, durable sort, but hardly of championship caliber. He had a large personal following from the Brownsville section of Brooklyn, and was a popular attraction at the local clubs.

George Chip, of New Castle, Pennsylvania, had just cinched his claim to the middleweight title by knocking out Frank Klaus for the second time in Pittsburgh. Chip had never boxed in the New York area, and when his brother Joe had to call off a match with McCoy at the Broadway in Brooklyn, George offered to substitute. Joe had beaten McCoy handily enough in a previous meeting, and George felt, naturally, that anybody his brother could whip couldn't be much of a danger to him and the title.

The bout had gone less than a minute, however, when McCoy uncorked a wild left swing that crashed against Chip's chin. Down went George for the full count.

Although tabbed the "Cheese Champion," McCoy held on to the title for 3½ years. Confining his efforts to no-decision bouts then prevalent, McCoy met all the top middleweights of the era and absorbed some rough pastings, but nobody could put him down for the count, the only way he could have lost the title. He gave Chip a couple of chances to get the laurels back, but George, though he walloped McCoy in lusty fashion both times, was unable to flatten the tough, awkward southpaw.

Destiny finally caught up to McCoy. On November 14, 1917, in the last fight staged in New York State under the

Frawley Law, Al was given a brutal lacing before Mike O'Dowd knocked him out in the sixth round at Brooklyn's Clermont Rink.

***

It was an off twist that O'Dowd, who won the title from one southpaw, should have lost it to another—and to an opponent who didn't rate it.

O'Dowd was not a great champion, but he was a good one, and when he dropped into Boston during the summer of 1920 to meet Johnny Wilson, the episode figured to represent just another payday to Mike.

Wilson, a veteran, fighting nine years, was originally out of New York. Shuttling around the landscape, he had ended up in Boston and become something of a local favorite there.

The bout, a 12-rounder, was to an official verdict, and when the news flashed out of the Hub that Wilson had been declared winner, a skeptical public shrugged it off as a hometown decision.

Wilson protested. "Maybe I'm not much of a champion," he admitted, "but if there is one guy I can lick, anytime, anywhere, it's Mike O'Dowd."

He proved it a year later when he retained the title by outpointing O'Dowd again in a neutral Madison Square Garden.

Johnny also proved he wasn't much of a champion by an erratic career that followed the O'Dowd series. Eventually, he lost the title to Harry Greb in New York's Polo Grounds in 1923.

***

Confusion ran rampant in the lightweight ranks in 1924, when Benny Leonard announced his retirement as champion. In an effort to determine a successor, the New York State Athletic Commission sponsored an elimination tournament. It became a wide-open scramble, with probably 50 or more entries crowding into it. The tourney spread out over six months before it ended. Sammy Mandell and Sid Terris were generally recognized as the two best lightweights then operating, but neither was destined to win. Terris refused to compete in the eliminations, and Mandell, in his first appearance, was unfortunate to lose on a disqualification to Jimmy Goodrich. It was Goodrich, an ordinary performer, who went on to win the tourney and the title.

Justice eventually triumphed, however, when Goodrich lost the laurels to veteran Rocky Kansas in Buffalo, and Kansas, in turn, passed them along to Mandell in Chicago.

***

Unrated Freddie (Red) Cochrane accounted for a real sensation in 1941, when he relieved Fritzie Zivic of the welterweight title in Newark. Cochrane, fighting eight years, mainly at the local New Jersey clubs, was listed as just a busy clubfighter. His record was far from impressive, with 62 wins against nine draws and 30 defeats in 101 starts. There were very few names in his lengthy list of opponents, and he didn't figure to offer Zivic much more than a brisk workout. But Fritzie, like the little girl in the nursery rhyme, was an unpredictable sort. When he was good, he was very, very good, but when he was bad, he was atrocious. This night he was bad,

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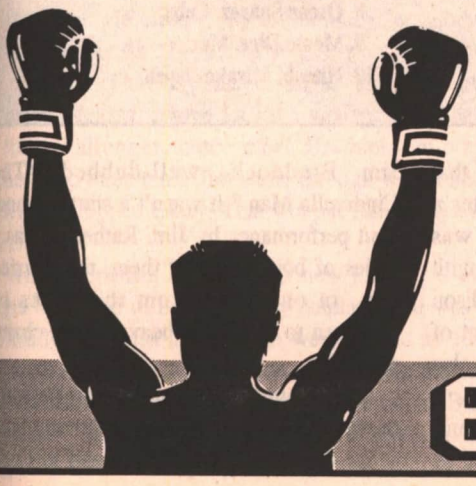

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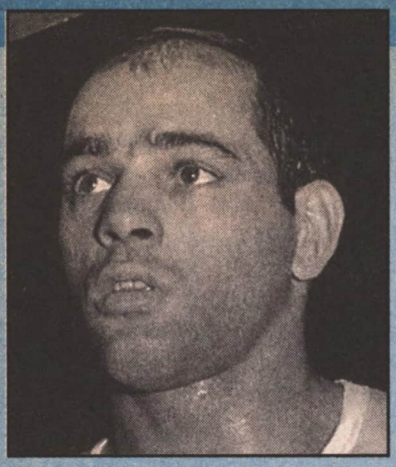


Carl (Bobo) Olson

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Rocky Marciano, Brockton, MA

1. **Archie Moore**, San Diego, CA
2. **Bob Baker**, Pittsburgh, PA
3. **Tommy Jackson**, Far Rockaway, NY
4. **Nino Valdes**, Cuba
5. **Earl Walls**, Canada
6. **Ezzard Charles**, Cincinnati, OH
7. **Heinz Neuhaus**, Germany
8. **Don Cockell**, England
9. **Franco Cavicchi**, Italy
10. **John Holman**, Chicago, IL

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGTS
World Champ: Archie Moore, San Diego, CA

1. **Floyd Patterson**, Brooklyn, NY
2. **Harold Johnson**, Philadelphia, PA
3. **Willie Pastrano**, New Orleans, LA
4. **Yolande Pompey**, Trinidad, BWI
5. **Bob Satterfield**, Chicago, IL
6. **Gerhard Hecht**, Germany
7. **Joey Maxim**, Cleveland, OH
8. **Willi Hoepner**, Germany
9. **Chuck Speiser**, Lansing, MI
10. **Ron Barton**, England

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Carl (Bobo) Olson, Honolulu, HI

1. **Charley Humez**, France
2. **Ray Robinson**, New York, NY
3. **Rocky Castellani**, Cleveland, OH
4. **Eduardo Lausse**, Argentina
5. **Holly Mims**, Washington, D.C.
6. **Ralph Jones**, Yonkers, NY
7. **Bobby Dykes**, Miami, FL
8. **Milo Savage**, Salt Lake City, UT
9. **Gene Fullmer**, West Jordan, UT
10. **Artie Towne**, New York, NY

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Carmen Basilio, Syracuse, NY

1. **Tony DeMarco**, Boston, MA
2. **Johnny Saxton**, Brooklyn, NY
3. **Virgil Akins**, St. Louis, MO
4. **Vince Martinez**, Paterson, NJ
5. **Ramon Fuentes**, Los Angeles, CA
6. **Del Flanagan**, St. Paul, MN
7. **Joe Miceli**, New York, NY
8. **Hector Constance**, Trinidad, BWI
9. **Isaac Logart**, Cuba
10. **Chico Vejar**, Stamford, CT

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Wallace (Bud) Smith, Cincinnati, OH

1. **James Carter**, New York, NY
2. **Duilio Loi**, Italy
3. **Ralph Dupas** New Orleans, LA
4. **Frankie Ryff**, New York, NY
5. **Cisco Andrade**, Compton, CA
6. **Kenny Lane**, Muskegon, MI
7. **Joe Lopes**, Sacramento, CA
8. **Johnny Gonsalves**, Oakland, CA
9. **Orlando Zulueta**, Cuba
10. **Arthur Persley**, Red Crosse, LA

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Sandy Saddler, New York, NY

1. **Ciro Morasen**, Cuba
2. **Ray Famechon**, France
3. **Teddy Davis**, Hartford, CT
4. **Carmelo Costa**, Brooklyn, NY
5. **Billy Kelly**, Ireland
6. **Hogan (Kid) Bassey**, Nigeria
7. **Lauro Salas**, Los Angeles, CA
8. **Fred Galiana**, Spain
9. **Flash Elorde**, Philippines
10. **Shigeru Kaneko**, Japan

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Robert Cohen, France

1. **Willie Toweel**, South Africa
2. **Mario D'Agata**, Italy
3. **Billy Peacock**, Los Angeles, CA
4. **Hilaire Pratesi**, France
5. **Andre Valignat**, France
6. **Raton Macias**, Mexico
7. **Jose Lopez**, Mexico
8. **Emil Chemama**, France
9. **Little Cezar**, Philippines
10. **Chamrern Songkitrat**, Thailand

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Pascual Perez, Argentina

1. **Leo Espinosa**, Philippines
2. **Young Martin**, Spain
3. **Danny Kid**, Philippines
4. **Dai Dower**, Wales
5. **Jake Tuli**, South Africa
6. **Tanny Campo**, Philippines
7. **Nazzareno Gianelli**, Italy
8. **Oscar Suarez**, Cuba
9. **Memo Diez**, Mexico
10. **Hitoshi Misako**, Japan

very bad. Cochrane grabbed the decision and the title.

Freddie had to wait four years to cash in on his good fortune. After he engaged in non-title affairs with Lew Jenkins in New York and Bobby Britton in Miami, the United States entered World War II, and Cochrane promptly enlisted in the Coast Guard. During his service, he managed to find time for a couple of bouts, but it wasn't until he was discharged in 1945 that he made his bid for big money. After a tuneup tour of the hinterlands, he was stopped twice in sensational battles with middleweight Rocky Graziano in Madison Square Garden, then was knocked out of his welterweight title by Marty Servo, also in the Garden.

By far the most amazing longshot campaign of all-time was the one conducted by Jim Braddock, well-dubbed "The Cinderella Man." It wasn't a startling one-bout performance by Jim. Rather, it was a series of bouts, four of them, that carried him, in one year, from the docks of Hoboken to the world heavyweight championship.

Jim's campaign began in a preliminary on the Primo Carnera-Max Baer title bout at the Garden's big outdoor Bowl in Long

Island City. The year was 1934. Braddock was picked as a victim for Corn Griffin, a newcomer from the South who had been turning in sensational performances as a Carnera sparmate at the Pompton Lakes training camp.

Once an outstanding light heavyweight, Braddock had apparently reached the end of his boxing trail a year before, when he and Abe Feldman figured in a dreary affair at White Plains that was stopped in the sixth round and called a no-contest. Disgusted, Jim announced his retirement from the ring. But the Depression was then on, and the going became rugged for a washed-up fighter with a family to support. Braddock grabbed what odd jobs came along, and occasionally found a day's work on the Hudson River docks.

Joe Gould, who had managed Braddock, happened to drop into matchmaker Jimmy Johnston's office in the Garden. Johnston hadn't yet picked an opponent for Griffin. "Say, what's Braddock doing now?" he asked Gould.

"The best he can," replied Joe.

"Could he use a payday?"

"He sure could, but doing what?"

"Boxing a preliminary on the Carnera-Baer card. Can't pay much—about two or three hundred bucks."

"That would look like a million to Jim right now," said Gould. "I'll speak to him, and I'm sure it'll be okay."

That's how it began. Dropped in the first round by Griffin, Braddock got up and wrecked the Southerner in the second.

A few months later, Johnston imported John Henry Lewis, youthful Arizonan who had something of a sensation on the Pacific Coast. He wanted Lewis to get off to an auspicious start in New York, and he thought of Braddock as an ideal opponent. Two years before, John Henry had beaten Braddock rather handily in San Francisco. Now, two years better while Braddock was two years older, he figured to annihilate the veteran. But things didn't turn out as they figured. Braddock won.

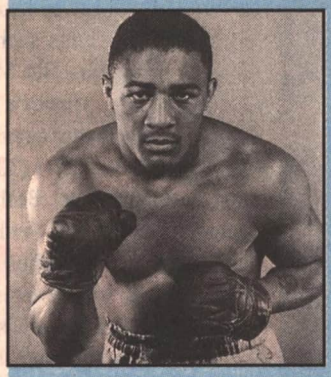
***

The eliminations to determine an opponent for Max Baer in a championship bout were ending. Steve Hamas and Art Lasky had met in the finale in the Garden. Hamas won, but the fight was so close and Steve's margin of victory so narrow, it was decided to rematch the pair and try for a more decisive winner. But Hamas, who had previously beaten Max Schmeling in Philadelphia, preferred going to Germany for another meeting with Herr Maxie. This time Steve was badly beaten and knocked out. That eliminated him as an opponent for Baer. Johnston decided to give Lasky a victory, then announce him as title challenger. Once more Braddock moved into the scene—and once more Jim came through with a stunning surprise. He whipped Lasky. That win put Jim into the match with Baer.

What happened, of course, is now history. If ever a challenger appeared to be hopelessly outclassed, it was Braddock. Officially, the odds against him were quoted as 10-1, but the only speculation on the bout was on how long Braddock would last against the murderous-punching Californian. But Jim, boxing cooly, superbly, climaxed his sensational comeback by whipping Baer in handy style. ■

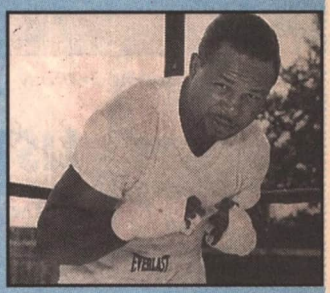
THE RING, December 1955

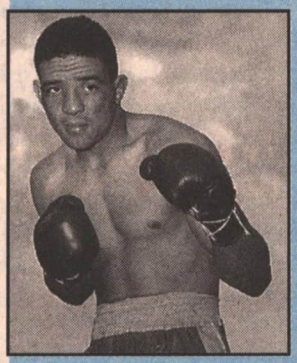
The Cover: Carmen Basilio: a world champion and his press clippings. The question: Will Basilio be able to retain the welterweight title against former champion Tony DeMarco? Their first fight was one of the best ever seen on national television.



Next For The Rock: There's talk that unbeaten heavyweight champion Rocky Marciano may retire. If he doesn't, who will get the next crack at the title? Candidates include Floyd Patterson, Bob Baker (pictured), Nino Valdes, and Tommy Jackson. Says manager Al Weill, "Marciano will quit when I tell him to quit."

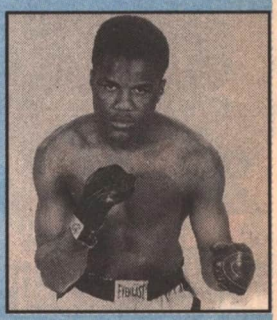
Protecting The Title: World championships are valuable commodities, and managers often go to great lengths to protect the title. Lester Bromberg examines several methods, including non-title fights, exhibitions, and careful matchmaking. Pictured: Light heavyweight king Archie Moore.





Aiming For Archie: Given Archie Moore's unsuccessful try at the heavyweight title, "The Ol' Mongoose" will have to satisfy himself with defenses of the world light heavyweight crown. Who will next challenge the champion? The possibilities include Harold Johnson, Bob Satterfield, Willie Pastrano, and Randy Turpin (pictured).

Fighter Of The Month: Heavyweight Tommy Jackson is the winner, based on his sixth-round stoppage of contender Rex Layne in Detroit. Layne was in control until "Hurricane" launched a furious attack and Layne suffered a cut that led directly to the stoppage.

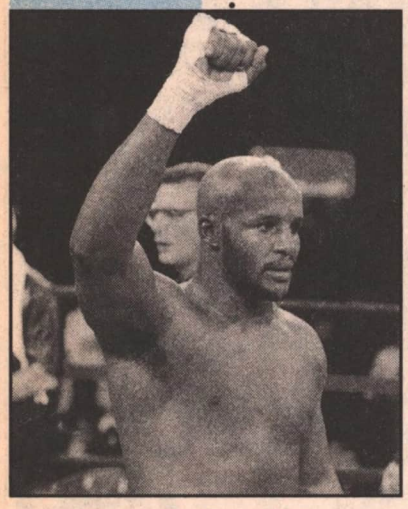


LOOKING AHEAD

By Steve Farhood

THE FORGOTTEN HEAVYWEIGHT

For what it's worth, Michael Moorer is again a heavyweight champion. The question: What exactly *is* it worth? Moorer, who regained the vacant IBF title by outpointing Axel Schulz in June, wants to rejoin the division's elite. Or as the southpaw's manager, John Davimos, told us, "Michael wants his credibility back, and he knows he doesn't get it fighting Axel Schulz and Frans Botha."



Moorer: Seeking credibility

Top heavyweights such as Riddick Bowe, Andrew Golota, and Lennox Lewis are not reigning champions. But Mike Tyson is, and the way Davimos sees it, if The Man wants to reunify the title, Moorer's status is worth plenty. "The only person in boxing who doesn't think title belts matter anymore is [HBO boss] Seth Abraham," Davimos said.

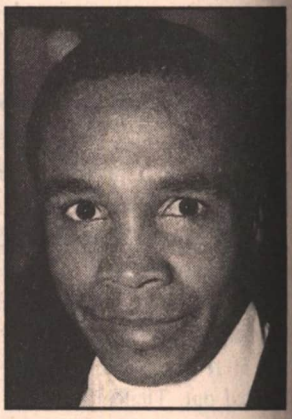
Before Moorer, 37-1 (30), can concern himself with a unification battle vs. "Iron Mike," he must defend against Botha. That fight, mandated by the IBF, will take place by late-September or October. And what if Tyson isn't available after that? After all, the WBC champion's schedule was adjusted after the postponement of his bout vs. WBA champion Bruce Seldon. As we went to press, it seemed likely Tyson would battle Seldon in September, and Evander Holyfield or Lewis after that.

"I keep hearing from the Foreman people," Davimos said of his options. "I think they mean it. [In November 1994, Foreman issued Moorer his only loss, knocking him out in the 10th round.] But Michael won't give up the belt, and I don't know if George can be rated."

Who, then, would Moorer rather fight, Tyson or Foreman? "The money being equal, probably George," said Davimos. "He'd like to settle the George thing."

LISTEN UP

The doubleheader featuring the **Pernell Whitaker-Wilfredo Rivera** and **Arturo Gatti-Tracy Patterson** rematches will take place on September 20 in Miami ... Lots of fighters want a shot at WBC super featherweight champion **Azumah Nelson**. Manager **Stan Hoffman** says his charge, **Reggie Tuur**, is on the short list ... Turns out **Sugar Ray Leonard**, 40, is serious about yet another comeback. A Leonard-**Pernell Whitaker** bout was all but set until Sugar Ray backed out after his guarantee was reduced from $7-million to $5.5-million. As we went to press, talks were ongoing concerning a Leonard-**Hector Camacho** bout. Leonard's reported asking price: $6-million ... HBO's *Boxing After Dark* entry for September, probably on the 14th: **Marco Antonio Barrera-Jesse Magana** and **Mark Johnson-Alejandro Montiel.** The latter bout will be IBF flyweight champion Johnson's second defense in less than six weeks. In Montiel, he's taking on a tough, legitimate contender from Mexico.



Sugar Ray: A return to the ring?

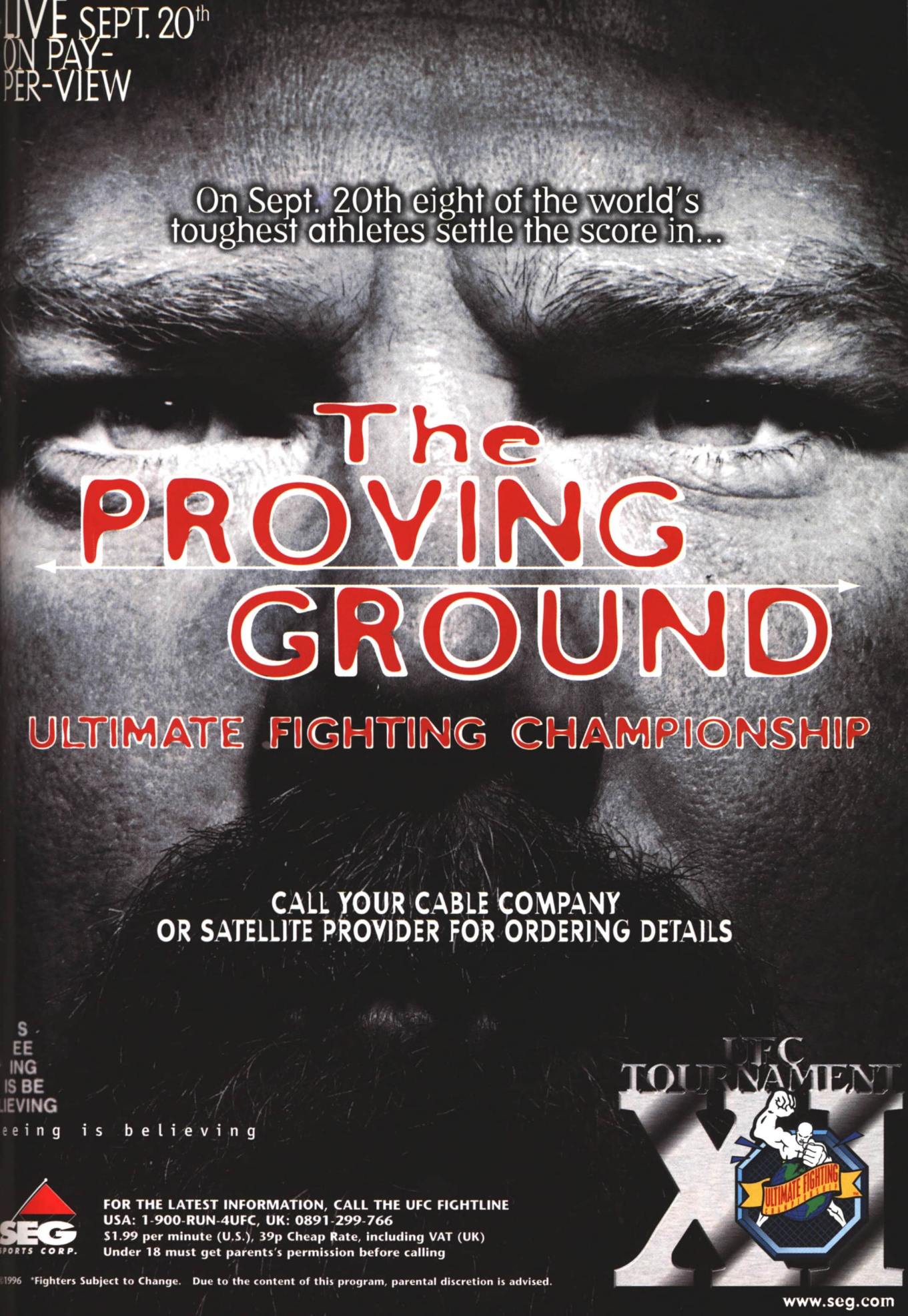
Las Vegas Hilton

FUTURE FIGHTS

By Art Manteris

VP/Director of Race and Sports Operations Las Vegas Hilton SuperBook

Favorite	Underdog	Odds	The Skinny
Riddick Bowe	Andrew Golota	5-2	Can't wait to see this one
Henry Maske	Virgil Hill	5-2	Surprising that Hill took the fight
Marco A. Barrera	Kevin Kelley	5-1	Both love to bang; Barrera has too much
Montell Griffin	Mike McCallum	8-5	"Bodysnatcher" can't keep beating young guys. Or can he?
Lennox Lewis	Oliver McCall	7-2	Unlikely that McCall can repeat upset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